

TEHRAN (AFP) — A special European Union (EU) envoy held talks here on Saturday with Iranian foreign ministry officials aimed at ending the political crisis between the Islamic republic and the EU, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The envoy, identified only as "Mertz," discussed "various aspects" of relations between the two sides with foreign ministry director general for western Europe, Ali Ahani. They also reviewed a possible meeting between Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi and his European counterparts on the sidelines of a U.N. General Assembly meeting in New York next month, IRNA said, describing the envoy's visit to Iran as "unexpected." Quoting an "informed source," IRNA said such a meeting could only take place if "a clear agenda was agreed upon" in Tehran.

Jordan Times

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King leaves for Cairo today for summit with Mubarak, Arafat

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein is scheduled to travel to Cairo today for talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on ways to save the peace process, which has received serious blows in the last few days, with Thursday's triple suicide bombing in Jerusalem and Friday's Israeli operation in Lebanon.

The trilateral summit comes as "a continuation of the process of coordination and consultation among Arab leaders" ahead of U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's upcoming tour in the region to reactivate the peace process, Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi said.

Speaking to reporters after a regular cabinet session, the minister described the region's present situa-

tion as "very serious" and said the fact that Ms. Albright's tour, scheduled to start on Sept. 9, has not been cancelled after the latest wave of violence was "an indication of the U.S. determination to play its role as a partner to make the peace process work."

The suicide attack on a busy shopping mall killed seven people including the bombers and wounded 192, while the failed military operation in Lebanon resulted in the death of two Lebanese civilians and 11 Israeli soldiers.

The Israelis have been saying that the Jerusalem bombing has narrowed the agenda of Ms. Albright's visit to security matters and significantly reduced chances that the long-awaited American initiative would bear fruit on the political level.

In an interview published in an Israeli English daily Friday, Israeli Prime Minis-

ter Benjamin Netanyahu was quoted as saying that the main task of Ms. Albright's visit will be to convince Palestinians to "fight terrorism and dismantle the terrorist infrastructure, commitments that have not been fulfilled so far."

Israeli reports also quoted Israeli President Ezer Weizman as asking Mr. Mubarak, in a telephone conversation after the Jerusalem bombing Thursday, to "use his influence on Mr. Arafat," stressing that the entire peace process was at stake.

Mr. Weizman reportedly said that "Mr. Arafat has to be in control of Hamas and I hope that the other sides taking part in the peace process, such as Mr. Mubarak and King Hussein, will use their influence on him."

The Palestinians, on the other hand, insist that Ms. Albright's visit will touch

on political issues and will bring concrete proposals to reactivate peace negotiations.

Mr. Arafat's advisor Nabil Abu Rudeineh was quoted by international news agencies Friday as saying that Mr. Arafat decided to travel to Egypt after "an important call from U.S. President Bill Clinton who expressed his deep interest in pursuing the peace process and asked the Palestinians to help make the U.S. secretary's visit to the region successful."

The Cairo summit follows intense diplomatic efforts exerted by Egypt over the last two months "with Jordan's full backing," Dr. Mutawi said.

Mr. Mubarak's advisor Osama Al Baz has been shuttling between Cairo and Tel Aviv in a bid to revive the fragile peace

(Continued on page 12)

PNA blames Israeli extremists for bombings

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) accused right-wing Israeli extremists Saturday of involvement in the Jerusalem suicide bombing as President Yasser Arafat prepared to meet Arab leaders on the crisis-torn peace process.

"The Palestinian leadership confirms that the terrorist operation against Israeli civilians in Jerusalem was not a Palestinian attack," said a statement issued following a late night meeting of Mr. Arafat's cabinet a day after three suicide bombers killed four Israelis on a Jerusalem pedestrian mall.

"We have evidence and information from the Israelis which shows that those behind this attack came from abroad and got help from the Israeli radical groups which assassinated Rabin," it said, referring to former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin who was slain in November 1995 by a Jewish extremist.

The statement accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government of "trying to hide information and details about who was behind this terrorist operation, who carried it out and who helped them."

Thursday's suicide bombing struck a severe blow to

the crumbling peace process only days before U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is to make her first tour of the Middle East.

In preparation for the visit, Mr. Arafat is to hold talks in Cairo with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and His Majesty King Hussein Sunday, officials said.

The summit's aim is to "examine the most efficient ways of saving the peace process and organising maximum coordination" ahead of Ms. Albright's tour, an Egyptian official said.

"His Majesty King Hussein will spare no effort to save the peace process," a senior Royal Court official said.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said Friday the summit would be complemented by contacts on "Arab and international levels to salvage the peace process which is facing huge challenges imposed by Israel."

Mr. Musa singled out "Israeli measures which are contrary to the peace accords and violence targeting civilians."

Immediately after Thursday's blasts, Israel reimposed a blockade on the Palestinian territories

which had first been slapped on the area after the Jerusalem bombing in July.

Mr. Arafat's Senior aide, Tayeb Abdul Rahim Friday implicitly accused Syria and Iran of involvement in both attacks.

But Mr. Netanyahu has laid the blame squarely on the PNA even though police have not identified the bombers.

"These attacks could not have been organised without the involvement of dozens of people to scout out the locations, build the bombs and transport them," he said Friday.

"For this, they need bases and Hamas carried out this attack from inside the Palestinian territories," he said, referring to the largest Palestinian Islamist movement whose military wing, Izzeddine Qassam claimed responsibility for the bombings.

Israeli troops arrested around 10 Palestinian suspects on the West Bank overnight, adding to around 70 detained the previous day, Palestinian sources said.

The Israeli government issued a clear warning Friday that if Mr. Arafat does not arrest large numbers of Islamists and eliminate the infrastructure of Hamas and other armed groups, it

would use its own troops to do so even in PNA areas.

"Israel is going to fight terrorism, its bases and its infrastructure to ensure the security of its citizens, unilaterally and without coordination with the PNA," Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh said.

No such action was expected, however, before Ms. Albright's arrival in the region Wednesday.

Mr. Netanyahu also said Israel would hand over no new territory to the PNA despite its commitment under signed peace agreements until Mr. Arafat crushes militant groups.

"It is inconceivable that we hand more territory over to the Palestinians which would only serve as new bases for the terrorists," he said.

The Palestinian statement called on U.S. President Bill Clinton and Ms. Albright "to be aware of Israeli attempts to use security issues as an excuse as Netanyahu has to damage peace process and avoid implementing peace agreements."

The PNA has detained two senior West Bank Hamas leaders and arrested at least seven suspects since Thursday's attack but on Friday Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat ruled out mass arrests.



The Royal Standard-draped coffin of Diana, Princess of Wales, is carried by bearers of Welsh Guards into Westminster Abbey in London for the funeral ceremony Saturday (AFP photo)

Millions attend Diana's funeral

LONDON (AP) — Silencing the royals with their grief, Britain's faithful legions shepherded their "people's princess" toward final rest Saturday in a mass outpouring that united com-

moner and aristocrat in an ocean of human tears. So visible in the capital during her life, Princess Diana made her last journey through it before millions of subdued people pressed

against police barriers. They wept and wailed, applauded and threw flowers in her path.

Upon her cortege: White lilies, the Royal Standard flag — and a card

addressed simply "mummy." "She was human. She was so human," said Ross McLelland-Taylor, a Londoner.

In a Westminster Abbey funeral extraordinary for its emotion, royalty and celebrities joined representatives of Princess Diana's many causes in the place where kings and queens have been married and buried for 900 years.

Services — including readings by Princess Diana's two sisters and Prime Minister Tony Blair — unfolded solemnly with formality and grace.

Earl Spencer, his voice cracking, made several references to the tabloid media, which he has blamed for his sister's death. But mostly he remembered "a very British girl who transcended nationality."

"Today is our chance to say thank you for the way you brightened our lives, even though God granted you only half a life," Earl Spencer said, his eyes welling with tears.

Outside in Hyde Park, thousands watching the simulcast on giant TV screens stood immediately and applauded.

Police had predicted up to six million people along the 3.5-mile funeral procession route. By late morning, they had put estimates at



Earl Spencer (front left), brother of Diana, Prince William (front right), Prince Harry (back left), Prince Charles (back centre) and The Very Reverend Wesley Carr stand in Westminster Abbey at the start of the funeral service for Diana Saturday (AFP photo)

(Continued on page 12)

Israel arrests more West Bank Palestinians in bomb probe

HEBRON (AFP) — The Israeli army arrested more than 20 Palestinians in pre-dawn raids around the West Bank Saturday, bringing to around 90 the number of suspects picked up since a triple suicide bombing in Jerusalem, Palestinian sources said.

About 10 suspects were picked up in raids in Hebron and in the villages of Dura and Dahiriya to the south, the sources said.

Another 12 were arrested in villages around Bethlehem, a Palestinian-ruled town where Palestinian police discovered an explosives hideout in July before the two multiple suicide bombings in Jerusalem, sources said.

The previous night Israeli troops rounded up 69 West Bank Palestinians suspected of connection to terrorist activity, the army said.

The army carried out the raids in West Bank villages under its control after three suicide bombers blew themselves up in a downtown Jerusalem outdoor mall Thursday, killing four Israelis and injuring more than 170 others.

Some 200 suspects had already been arrested in the West Bank following the first Jerusalem bombing in July.

The Izzeddine Qassam brigade, Hamas's military wing claimed responsibility for both attacks.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insisted Friday that the bombers were guided by Hamas and benefited from support from groups operating in Palestinian-ruled areas.

His government warned Friday that it would send Israeli troops into PNA areas to hunt for militants if

the Palestinian police do not round up the suspects and dismantle their organizations.

Palestinian police have arrested two Hamas leaders from Nablus and Ramallah and detained seven to 10 lower level suspects since Thursday's bombing.

But the PNA has refused to carry out mass arrests of Islamists as demanded by Israel, with apparent U.S. backing, saying no evidence has been presented by Israeli police to warrant such widespread detentions.

Earlier this year, Israeli and Palestinian police dismantled a Hamas cell operating from the town of Tsurif near Hebron that was responsible for killing a dozen Israelis in a series of drive-by shootings and a bombing in a Tel Aviv cafe in March.

49 people massacred in Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) — Forty-nine civilians have been killed and around 60 wounded in Algiers by suspected militants, hospital sources said Saturday, making it the bloodiest such attack in the capital yet.

Survivors said an armed group of several dozen men descended on the suburb of Beni Messous around 9:00 p.m. Friday, in a very poor neighbourhood known as Sidi Youssef.

Residents who had been gathered in a local square were felled by axe and knife blows, they said. Several mutilated corpses could be seen strewn on the grounds of the suburb's hospital, an Agence France Presse journalist reported.

(Continued on page 12)

India declares mourning for Mother Teresa

CALCUTTA (AFP) — India declared a period of national mourning Saturday following Mother Teresa's death as hundreds of Calcuttans took to the streets in their own tribute to the city's "Saint of the Gutters."

A government spokesman said Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral would arrive in Calcutta Sunday to pay personal homage to the 87-year-old Nobel laureate, who died Friday evening of a cardiac arrest.

While tributes for the missionary poured in from inside and outside India, hundreds of Hindus, Muslims and Christians braved heavy rains here to pay their final respects.

Police, however, were forced to cordon off Mother House, the Missionaries of Charity headquarters, and

cut short a public viewing of the body as the numbers of mourners swelled close to 1,000.

The Indian government, meanwhile, ordered that the national flag should be flown at half mast in mourning Saturday.

Mother Teresa, awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for her work among the destitute and dying of Calcutta, is due to be buried within the confines of Mother House on Sept. 13.

Her death has prompted widespread tributes across the world from such key figures as the Pope and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

India's politicians and religious leaders also lauded the Roman Catholic nun, who founded her order in Calcutta in 1950 before

Premier wants Mother Theresa buried in Albania

TIRANA (AFP) — Albanian Prime Minister Fatos Nano Saturday expressed the hope that Mother Teresa, who was of ethnic Albanian origin, would be buried in Albania. "We do not yet know her wishes, but as Albania's prime minister, I feel compelled to express the hope that Mother Teresa should be buried in our motherland, convinced that is the desire of the Albanian people," Mr. Nano said in a television statement.

Mother Teresa, whose real name was Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, was born on Aug. 27, 1910 in Skopje, Macedonia, to Albanian parents.

"I wish to assure all Albanians and all those whom she helped, that the Albanian state will honour her as she deserves," Mr. Nano continued.

Following the death Friday in Calcutta of Mother Teresa at the age of 87, Albanian President Rexhep Meidani declared that her death had saddened all Albanians.

"Mother Teresa was a great citizen of the world, whose length and breadth she travelled in the service of the poor and all those who needed her touching attention," the president said in a statement. She visited Albania on three occasions. The last time was in September 1994 when the country was gripped by a cholera epidemic.

(Continued on page 12)

Lebanon protests to truce committee after Israeli raid

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanon said Saturday it lodged a complaint with an international truce monitoring committee over the death of a civilian woman during a disastrous Israeli commando raid into south Lebanon.

Beirut considers Israel "responsible" for the death of Palestinian refugee Samira Asmar who was caught in the fighting between Lebanese guerrillas and Israeli troops in south Lebanon early Friday, a Lebanese official said.

Five Lebanese civilians were also wounded during bomb explosions and clashes that erupted after the bungled Israeli raid deep into Lebanese territory, which left 12 elite Israeli commandos dead and four injured.

Two Lebanese soldiers were also wounded, along with three members of Hizbollah and four from Amal.

Lebanon lodged the complaint with the five-nation committee set up to monitor an April 1996 ceasefire in south Lebanon.

The ceasefire, which ended Israel's 17-day Grapes of Wrath offensive in Lebanon, bans the targeting of civilians or the launching of attacks from civilian areas.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa questioned why Israel continued to occupy a buffer zone in south Lebanon, following the death of the 12 Israeli commandos.

"We are following the situation in Lebanon, but the question which must be asked is: 'Why do the Israelis stay in south Lebanon?'" Mr. Musa said to reporters.

Militants reportedly slaughter three family members for collaboration

MINYA, Egypt (AFP) — Militants shot dead three family members suspected of collaborating with police and then tried to behead them with an axe, police said Saturday.

Two members of the Gamaa Islamiyah, the main armed Islamist group in Egypt, opened fire on the men in the village of Al Rudha in the Mallawi region, 300 kilometres

south of Cairo, police said. The militants then tried to decapitate their victims, all farm workers, with an axe while the eight-year-old son of one of the men looked on in horror, they added.

Samir Thabet Sadeq Henes, his brother Malik and another relative Zakaria Kamal Henes were accused of providing police with information



PALESTINIAN-GERMAN TALKS: German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel (right) meets with Nabeel Sha'ath, Palestinian minister for international cooperation, on Saturday in Hamburg. Their talks were focused on the Middle East peace process (AFP photo)

Kuwaiti press blames Israeli prime minister for undermining peace

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The Kuwaiti press Saturday slammed the Israeli government for its extremist policies that are undermining the peace process after Israeli commandos were killed in a failed raid in south Lebanon.

The daily Al Qabas said Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's policies are aimed at "bringing down all previous agreements and international resolutions" referring to Israel's latest military operation in Lebanon.

Twelve elite Israeli commandos were killed Friday after they were ambushed while trying to raid guerrilla bases deep inside southern Lebanon.

"Netanyahu, who by adopting the slogans of extremist Jews calling for expansion, settlements and opposition to regional peace... should therefore be

NEWS IN BRIEF

6 Iraqi 'pimps' sentenced to death

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Six Iraqis have been condemned to death for running a prostitution and alcohol smuggling racket for Saudi Arabians, the official newspaper Al Jumhuriyah reported Saturday. The five men and one woman were sentenced in July to death by hanging by a special interior ministry court, the newspaper said, without specifying if they had been executed. They were found guilty of having "recruited girls and operated a prostitution and alcohol trafficking network for Saudi Arabians," the paper said. Diplomatic relations between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, which share a long common border, were broken soon after the 1991 Gulf war.

2 Pakistanis beheaded in S. Arabia

RIYADH (AFP) — Two Pakistanis, one of them a neophyte, were decapitated Saturday in the Mecca area of western Saudi Arabia for murder, the interior ministry said. Mohammed Riyadh Barkudar and Mohammed Sharif Ahmedin stabbed dead another Pakistani, Mohammed Jawid Mohammed Latif, who was then sexually violated, the ministry said in a statement carried by the Saudi Press Agency. The beheadings bring to 90 the number of executions officially announced in the kingdom since the beginning of the year.

Turkey will not take part in NATO drills

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey on Saturday said it would not take part in NATO's annual military manoeuvres in the Aegean Sea this year, due to be held Sept. 23 to Oct. 9, blaming NATO "concessions" to "Greece." The Turkish foreign ministry justified its decision by saying NATO had made "concessions" to Greece to obtain its participation in this year's manoeuvres, dubbed "Dynamic Mix." Though allies in NATO, Greece and Turkey remain tense neighbours in the Aegean and Greece has balked for several years over the NATO exercises there.

Turkish army kills 52 rebel Kurds

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish army troops have killed 52 separatist Kurdish rebels in the last three days of fighting in the country's troubled southeast, government officials said Saturday.

Thirty-two rebels from the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) were killed in a clash in a mountainous area in Sirmak province bordering northern Iraq, the south-east's regional governorship said in a statement received here.

Security forces killed 20 other PKK members in three other clashes in the provinces of Van, Hakkari and Siirt, it said.

The governorship made no mention of casualties among the security forces.

More than 26,000 people, including rebels, members of the security forces and civilians, have been killed in PKK-related violence in the southeast since 1984 when the group launched its armed campaign for a Kurdish homeland.

Foreign 'illegals' play hide-and-seek with Saudi police

DUBAI (AFP) — Bahjir Seif, a Sri Lankan electrical engineer arrested in a sweep against illegal foreign workers, said he would rather tend camels in Saudi Arabia than return home to a pittance of a salary.

"In Sri Lanka, as an electrical engineer, I can't make a third of what I get here just doing odd jobs," he explained on Saudi television after being arrested in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah.

On July 17, Saudi authorities set a three-month deadline for foreigners without work permits to leave the country or face a maximum six months in jail and fines of up to \$26,000.

Those who employ or harbour such "illegals" risk a full year in jail and fines of some \$13,000.

Hundreds of pilgrims to Islam's holiest sites in Mecca who overstayed their welcome to find jobs, including some 500 Sri Lankans and some 200 Filipinos, have given them-

selves up to leave the country under the Saudi amnesty.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:10 Little Rosey
14:30 The Magic School Bus
15:00 Energy Express
15:40 Lucky Luke
16:00 American Chart Show
17:00 French Programmes
19:00 News in French
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Fresh Prince of Bel-Air
20:00 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
20:30 National Geographic
21:10 Renegade
22:00 News in English
22:30 One West Walkie
23:15 Sisters
23:59 End of T.X.

PRAYER TIMES

04:50 Fajr
06:09 (Sunrise) Duha
12:34 Dhuhur
16:08 Asr
18:58 Maghreb
20:17 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Switfeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church
Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Anglican Church Tel. 652826

ARMENIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Tel. 771331

ARMENIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Tel. 775261

ST. EPHRAIM CHURCH

Tel. 771751

AMMAN INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

Tel. 5516245

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Tel. 624328

GERMAN-SPEAKING EVANGELICAL CONGREGATION

Tel. 688404

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Tel. 654932

CHURCH OF NAZARENE

Tel. 675691

THE EVANGELICAL LOCAL CHURCH

in Amman Tel. 811295

ENGLISH-SPEAKING LATIN CATHOLICS PARISH

Tel. 614190

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Moderate summer weather conditions will prevail with temperatures around average and winds north-westerly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be hot winds northerly moderate, and seas calm.

Min/Max temp. Amman.....19/31
Aqaba.....23/36
Deserts.....19/36
Jordan Valley.....23/37

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 30, Aqaba 25 Humidity
readings: Amman 39 per cent,
Aqaba 36 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Bassam Karadshah.....759200
Dr. Salman Daboubi.....776751
Dr. Ramzi Mazzawi.....894788
Dr. Khalid M'addi.....661144
Firas pharmacy.....661912
Ferdows pharmacy.....778336
Al Asema pharmacy.....637055
Nairoukh pharmacy.....623672
Al Salam pharmacy.....636730
Yacoub pharmacy.....644945
Shmeisani pharmacy.....637660
Najib pharmacy.....847632

IRBID:
Dr. Ghazi Ta'ameh.....250080
Al Quds pharmacy.....(—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Samir Lawzi.....989601
Khalifeh pharmacy.....985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre.....637111
Civil Defence Department.....661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue

630341

Civil Defence Emergency

199

Rescue Police

192 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade

617101

Blood Bank

775121

Highway Police

843400

Traffic Police

896590

Public Security Dept.

630321

Hotel Complaints

605800

Price Complaints

661176

Water & Sewage Complaints

897467

Amman Municipality Complaints

787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance)

121

Overseas Calls

010230

Central Amman Telephone

Repairs.....623101

Abdali Tel. Repairs.....661101

Jordan Television.....773111

Radio Jordan.....774111

Water Authority.....680100

J. Electricity Authority.....815615

Electric Power Co.....636381

RJ Flight Information.....08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport.....08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre.....813813/32
Khalidi Maternity.....644281/6
Akileh Maternity.....642341/2
Jabal Amman Maternity.....642362
Malhas, J. Amman.....636140
Palestine, Shmeisani.....607071

Shmeisani Hospital

669131

University Hospital

845845

Al-Muasher Hospital

667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali

666126/37

Italian, Al-Mubajreen

777101/3

Al-Bashir

775111/26

Angry, Marka

891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital

602240/50

Amal Hospital

674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and

Special Surgery.....865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital

10:05 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)

10:05 Bombay (RJ)

10:20 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

10:20 Larnaca (RJ)

10:25 Beirut (RJ)

10:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

12:15 Jeddah (RJ)

17:05 Amsterdam, Brussels (RJ)

17:40 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

18:05 Paris (RJ)

18:50 London (RJ)

19:05 Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)

19:10 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)

20:40 Rome (RJ)

20:55 Detroit, Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)

00:25 Frankfurt (RJ)

00:45 Beirut (add) (RJ)

01:55 Cairo (RJ)

02:59 Dhahran (add) (RJ)

05:10 Vienna (RJ)

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital

(03)314111

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

10:05 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)

10:05 Bombay (RJ)

10:20 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

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10:25 Beirut (RJ)

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00:45 Beirut (add) (RJ)

01:55 Cairo (RJ)

02:59 Dhahran (add) (RJ)

05:10 Vienna (RJ)

AIRPORT

This information is supplied by

Royal Jordanian (RJ) information

department at the Queen Alia International

Airport Tel. (08)53200-5,

where it should always be verified.

Information on other flights can be

supplied on phone 08 (52700)

Other Flights

08:10 Doha (add) (GF)

11:00 Al Arish (add) (PF)

12:00 Sanaa (TY)

12:00 Jeddah (SV)

13:35 Bahrain (GF)

15:20 Moscow (SU)

21:10 Beirut (ME)

21:35 Cairo (MS)

23:20 Istanbul (TK)

00:59 Cairo (MS)

02:15 London (BA)

07:20 London (BA)

07:20 Tel Aviv (LY)

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CEREMONY FOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: His Majesty King Hussein Saturday attended a ceremony held at the Royal Cultural Centre to honour former chairmen and members of the Amman Chamber of Commerce. King Hussein distributed the chamber's shields to the 40 honouree members in appreciation of their services to the Jordanian economy in general and the trade sector in particular. During the ceremony the Chamber's President Haidar Murad presented the King with a token gift, a copy of the Holy Koran ornamented with gems and delivered an address in which he paid tribute to His Majesty and his wise directives that helped Jordan attract investors from throughout the world (Petra photo)

Illiteracy continues to drop, measures taken to ensure continued decline — ministry

AMMAN (J.T.) — The rate of illiteracy among people aged 15 and above dropped from 67.6 per cent in 1961 to 12 per cent in 1997, but efforts are being made to reduce the rate to eight per cent by the year 2000, Director of General Education at the Ministry of Education Mahmoud Masad said Saturday.

In an effort to reduce the illiteracy rate, the ministry has opened 565 literacy and adult education centres, 53 for men and 512 for women, which served a total of 11,475 people in the past year, Dr. Masad said.

In addition, the ministry last year opened several "home classes," whose courses benefited 567 people, according to Dr. Masad, speaking prior to International Literacy Day (ILD), which is observed

on Sept. 8.

The ministry, in conjunction with several non-governmental organisations, is planning a special programme for further improving the efficiency and standards of the teachers at these centres, he continued.

Since the beginning of the new scholastic year, the ministry has re-opened the literacy and adult education centres in the country and provided them with textbooks, as well as stationery, which is given free of charge to the learners as part of the free educational services, according to Dr. Masad.

In a message on the ILD, the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Federico Mayor said "thanks to the constant and

sustained efforts of all concerned, the tide of worldwide illiteracy is turning: the illiteracy rate, estimated at 45 per cent 50 years ago, has fallen to 23 per cent today.

"However, that average, which is still too high, masks significant disparities. It is in Africa and Asia that illiteracy remains the highest.

"I call upon the governments concerned — all those who, in Hamburg last July, recognised that adult education is 'one of the keys to the 21st century' — to invite them to redouble their efforts to spread adult education and literacy. I call upon non-governmental organisations, volunteer groups, and the private sector to strengthen their work to this end."

Joint Jordanian-Yemeni committee concludes preparatory meetings

SANAA (Petra) — A joint Jordanian-Yemeni preparatory committee concluded its meeting in Sanaa Saturday, prior to a meeting of the higher joint committee in the Yemeni capital today, to be co-chaired by the Jordanian and Yemeni prime ministers.

According to a statement issued after the meeting, the preparatory committee reviewed resolutions taken by the higher committee that was convened in Amman in July 1996 and progress in their implementation.

The preparatory committee recommended a number of protocols, agreements, and memoranda of understanding to the higher committee to sign during its two-day meeting.

The protocols covered the following: technical

cooperation between the investment promotion corporations in the two states, technical cooperation between Yemeni and Jordanian organisations concerned with promoting exports, and cooperation between the two health ministries.

The preparatory committee also submitted recommendations for the following agreements: cooperation in labour-related issues, awqaf and Islamic affairs, tourism, and information, as well as draft agreements on cooperation in judicial fields and on avoiding dual taxation.

On the sidelines of the meetings, private sector businesspeople from Jordan met with their colleagues in Yemen and decided to create a joint committee that would be

entrusted with promoting trade and joint investment projects in the two countries.

The committee is to meet alternately in Sanaa and Amman to follow up on the implementation of the accords.

Yemeni Minister of Industry and Trade Ahmad Soufan, who co-chaired the meeting of the preparatory committee with his Jordanian counterpart Hani Mulki, addressed the closing session by expressing hope that the agreements would further promote trade exchanges.

The preparatory committee's meeting was preceded by a meeting of the joint technical committee, which focused attention on trade, economic, health, cultural, scientific, security, and investment fields.

Cabinet expresses hope for positive results from upcoming Albright visit

AMMAN (Petra) — The Middle East is optimistically awaiting the planned visit by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who reportedly will be carrying new ideas and proposals that could assist the concerned parties overcome the dangerous obstacles currently facing the peace process, Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi said Saturday.

Despite the recent suicide attacks in west Jerusalem,

there is still hope that Mrs. Albright will bring her ideas, without which the peace process cannot move forward, Dr. Mutawi said after the regular Cabinet session.

"We in Jordan have always been saying that the U.S. should exercise a vital, important, and basic role as a partner in the peace process, and Ms. Albright's visit offers a chance to the U.S. to add credence to this concept," the minister said.

"The U.S. secretary's

ideas could enable the concerned parties to overcome the present painful situation that the region is facing at the moment.

"There can be no alternative to peace, which is an international strategy," he added.

He said the presence of Palestinian and Israeli delegations in Washington to discuss a number of points in the secretary's initiative gives an indication that the upcoming stages will be decisive and head in the

right direction.

Dr. Mutawi said Egypt's efforts are fully backed by Jordan, adding that His Majesty King Hussein recently delegated HRH Crown Prince Hassan to visit Israel and Egypt to pursue efforts in reviving the stalled peace process.

The ministers also discussed a new set of regulations for the Civil Service Commission, but they were not endorsed in the final form because there have been some suggestions for

amendments, he said, expressing hope that the regulations will be ratified soon.

The Cabinet endorsed an agreement on a loan from the World Bank to help carry out the national telecommunications programme.

The Cabinet also authorised the ambassador to Egypt to ratify an agreement reached by the two countries on avoiding dual taxation.

Opening session of conference deals with 'humanity,' 'stereotypes' during information age

By Amy Henderson
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Media professionals from around the world yesterday opened a three-day conference on communication and diplomacy under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who cautioned against ignoring the human dimension in the new information age.

Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Zeid Rifai, who delivered the opening address on behalf of the Crown Prince, said, "The lure of technology, and the luxury and comfort yielded during the past three decades by what has come to be called the 'information age,' should not prevent us from thinking about the human being himself, and how to sustain resources for his basic, mental and material needs."

"I call upon the governments concerned — all those who, in Hamburg last July, recognised that adult education is 'one of the keys to the 21st century' — to invite them to redouble their efforts to spread adult education and literacy. I call upon non-governmental organisations, volunteer groups, and the private sector to strengthen their work to this end."

The Crown Prince cautioned that the "continuous indulgence in consumerism on the part of the recipients of information, and the voluntary submission to cultural domination will surely result in the recipient's increased dependency on the powers providing this information."

"The inevitable result will be their loss of opportunity to contribute qualitatively

to the future civilisation of mankind," he said.

The conference, organised by the Institute of Diplomacy in conjunction with Yarmouk University's Department of Mass Communication and the Arab-U.S. Association for Communication Educators (AUSACE), is entitled "Communication and Diplomacy: New Horizons in the Information Age." Thirty-five speakers are scheduled to present variations on this theme throughout the three-day meeting.

A professor at Washington State University currently researching the influence of the U.S. media in an extensive list of selected countries shared the Crown Prince's concern of "cultural domination" by rich, developed countries.

Mexico, Brazil, and South Africa, he said.

"Our findings so far were that the predominant image of the United States is hedonistic, materialistic, violent and aggressive, wealthy, stubborn, and self-righteous, as well as being a land full of opportunities and racial prejudice.

"These images are projected [by foreign audiences] to 'real' Americans and their lives," he said.

Another finding was that these images of America and its people are especially appealing to adolescents and in this can be seen an erosion of native values in terms of community structures, he said.

increasing the North-South gap, particularly in terms of information capital.

"Information will be dominated by the U.S.," said Adnan Hayajneh, assistant professor at the Bayt Al Hikma Institute for Political Studies at Al al Bayt University.

Dr. Hayajneh asserted that in the "new world order," basically a bipolar system, international communication has a tendency towards military communication.

"Television cameras follow the U.S. benefits," he said, referring to the tendency of news coverage to concentrate on U.S. economic and military decisions.

During yesterday's afternoon session on press freedoms, Riad Hroub, publisher of Jordan's first weekly newspaper, Shihab, and Jordan's latest daily newspaper, Al Arab Al Yawm, discussed Shihab's experience in challenging the limits to press freedoms since the paper's founding in 1984.

"The major exporters of television and other communication concepts are U.S.-based, although they are not necessarily U.S. companies," Professor Alex Tan said.

Prof. Tan told the conference during the course of his research he studied such issues as: the images of the U.S. that are exported to foreign audiences; the effects on the value systems of foreign consumers; and the projected image of U.S. racial groups and the effect of the American social stereotypes on audiences abroad.

These influences were studied in several countries, including China, Taiwan, Thailand, the Philippines,

Other speakers also voiced concern over the role of major powers, particularly that of the U.S., on international communication in the "new world order," acknowledging a clear concern that the domination of these powers is

During yesterday's afternoon session on press freedoms, Riad Hroub, publisher of Jordan's first weekly newspaper, Shihab, and Jordan's latest daily newspaper, Al Arab Al Yawm, discussed Shihab's experience in challenging the limits to press freedoms since the paper's founding in 1984.

Shihab started as a "social" paper that published popular issues, other than politics, said Dr. Hroub, who addressed the afternoon session entitled, "Press and Freedom of Expression."

"We found that people wanted other information," he said. Over the years, Shihab has expanded its jurisdiction into coverage of other fields, including political issues, said Dr. Hroub, but has shown that [the

weekly press] "is a needed and a wanted press."

Jordan's weekly press industry has recently been under fire from both the government and media professionals for being too daring in news coverage, too irresponsible with respect to sensitive issues, and for going against accepted public mores.

Although Dr. Hroub admits that Jordan's weekly news industry has often exceeded accepted limits of decency and news coverage, it has played an important role in expanding democracy.

"We should respect [the weekly newspaper industry]," he said.

At today's sessions, participants from the United Kingdom, Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco, the United States and Egypt will present papers on "Media Challenges in the Next Century" and International Communication in the New World Order."

Among speakers in today's panel of participants is Dr. Tahseen Mansour (Jordan), presenting a paper on "The Future of Public Relations in the Government Sector: Government Directors' Points of View," Ingy Al Sayed (Egypt), presenting a paper on "The Palestinian Question in the Political Documentary Cinema" and Dr. Mohammad Tala (Morocco), presenting a paper on "Hindrances to Research and Communication in the Arab World."

Queen Noor, Prince Hamzeh attend funeral in London

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor and HRH Prince Hamzeh Saturday attended the funeral of the late Princess of Wales at Westminster Abbey in London, according to press release Saturday.

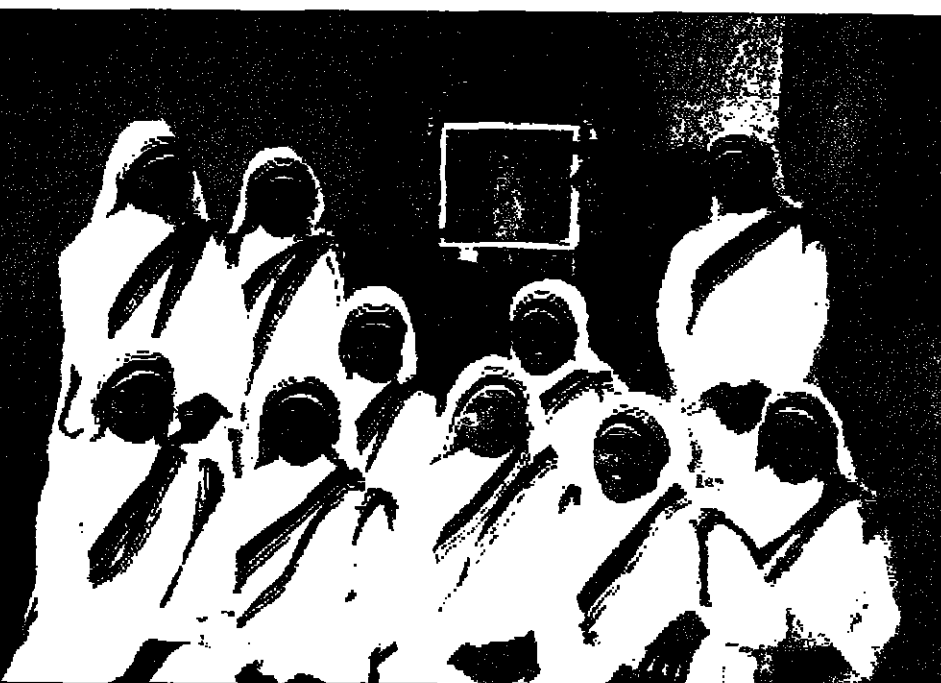
After the funeral, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and his wife held a special luncheon, which was attended by Queen Noor, Prince Hamzeh, Ms. Hillary Clinton, Mrs. Bernadette Chirac, Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, British Foreign Minister Robin Cook, and other prominent officials, the statement said.

Mother Theresa's legacy continues in Amman

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Humble and tireless, the Missionaries of Charity in Amman continue their work as Mother Theresa taught them, serving the orphans, the dying, and all those who have nobody to whom to turn.

The twelve "sisters," in their famous blue-trimmed white saris, are the seeds that Mother Theresa, the "Saint of the Ghetto," planted in Jordan in 1970.



To them, the death on Friday of their spiritual guide and founder of their order is not a source of despair, but one more reason to multiply their prayers, "how that Mother Theresa is finally together with Jesus, in peace."

They will have special prayers for Mother Theresa on Wednesday at their headquarters at Gardens Street, said Sister Julie, one of the Missionaries of Charity in Amman.

The Missionaries of Charity, the religious group founded by Mother Theresa, operate two houses in the Amman area for needy people

In their two "homes," the "home of peace," in Tla Al Ali, for mentally and physically handicapped, dying, and elderly rejected by their families or alone in the world, and the "home of love," in Russeifah, for children below the age of 12, the "sisters of Mother Theresa" as some people call them, provide shelter, food, and all the medical assistance they can for more than 100 people.

"People are generous," said Sister Julie, "and we have just what we need to carry on our work."

But if the sisters would not waste time complaining or talking about themselves, Father Moussa Adeli, of St.

Joseph parish at the First Circle, who is close to them and met Mother Theresa personally on several occasions, praised their dedication in "serving the poorest without asking for anything in return."

"Their dedication reaches to the extent that during [the Holy Month of] Ramadan they stay up at night to feed and wash the patients who wish to fast," Father Moussa told the Jordan Times.

Father Moussa recalled meeting Mother Theresa six times: Three times on the occasion of her visits to Jordan, in 1970, in 1974 and 1980, when His Majesty King Hussein conferred upon her Al Istiklal medal, — the Kingdom's highest decoration — in 1982

in Bethlehem, and in 1986 and 1994 in Rome.

"She has always impressed me with her words on Jesus and inner life," he commented.

Mother Theresa, who was born in 1910 to a rich Albanian family, left home to enter a Dublin convent at the age of 18. She founded the order of the Missionaries of Charity in 1950.

Ever since, her organisation has grown to include "more than 5,000 sisters and brothers in 128 countries," according to Father Moussa.

In the Middle East, Mother Theresa's sisters are in Yemen, Palestine, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Sudan, Turkey, Tunisia, and Jordan.

Together with the three ordi-

nary oaths that nuns take — obedience, poverty, and chastity — the Missionaries of Charity also take the oath of "serving the poorest."

Mother Theresa's sisters in Amman are from India, Italy, Slovakia and Ethiopia, but a new Jordanian member might enter the family.

The sisters would not disclose her name, because "we do not think her family approves [her plan to join Mother Theresa's order]," Sister Julie said.

"We know she is in Rome and just completed the first year of her three-year training. 'She will see how our life is like, and then, when she will be sure, she will decide,'" said Sister Julie.

WHAT'S GOING ON

DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '97 FESTIVAL

- * Seminar entitled "Visual Analysis About Sculpture" by Dr. Mazen Asfour at 7:00 p.m.
- * Graphics by Rafi Nasiri of Iraq, Ziad Dalloul of Syria, and Najia Mehadji at the South Hall.
- * Paintings by Jordanian artist Mohammad Qailoka at the Middle Hall.
- * Sculpture, drawings, and paintings by Jordanian artist Rajwa Ali.
- * Works by contemporary Arab artists at the Blue House.
- * Paintings by children of Zarqa reflecting on the problem of pollution at the Byzantine church.

PLAY

- * Children's play — "The Treasure" at the Royal Cultural Centre, at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Paintings by Palestinian artists entitled "Palestine the Reality and the Dream" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until Oct. 2 (except Tuesdays).
- * Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Sept. 9.
- * Works by Basem Al Mahdi at the Jordan Plastic Art Association Gallery, Jabal Weibdeh, until Sept. 8.
- * Bani Hamida exhibition (rugs, cushions, runners, wall hangings and baskets) at Al Baidar Hall of Kan Zaman, until Sept. 20.

India reports 2 killed in fresh Pakistani firing in Kashmir

SRINAGAR (Agencies) — Two Indians were killed and five injured in fresh artillery fire by Pakistani troops in Kashmir but the situation was not alarming, an Indian Defence Ministry spokesman said Saturday.

The civilian casualties occurred in the latest outbreak of shelling on the line of control in the Himalayan mountain region where at least 15 people have been killed in the last two weeks.

"A four-year-old girl and a 20-year-old lady died in Pakistan shelling Friday evening while five other civilians were injured," defence spokesman, P. Puri-shotam told Reuters in Srinagar, summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state.

He said the four-year-old girl died in Kern sector in Kupwara district on the boundary line, 87 kilometres north of Srinagar.

The 20-year-old woman was killed and five other civilians injured in Tangar sector in the same district, he said.

The spokesman said Pakistani troops were using heavy artillery and mortars

and intermittent firing was still going on.

"It is not alarming, we are reacting to the situation as required," he said. "Fire control is being exercised by our field commanders."

In late August, Indian officials said troops had destroyed about three dozen Pakistani bunkers and killed up to 70 troops across the line of control dividing the highland region.

Pakistani officials and diplomats dismissed the casualty figures. To date, the two sides have confirmed 15 dead.

On Friday, Indian Defence Ministry officials said two Indian soldiers were killed and two wounded in cross-border artillery firing by Pakistani troops.

On Wednesday, India accused Pakistan of provoking fresh cross-border firing which wounded four Indian defence personnel and a civilian.

Diplomats said cross-border firing often picks up at this time of the year when each side tries to bring supplies, often on mule-back, to remote sentry posts along

the mountainous frontier.

Meanwhile Pakistan observed Defence Day Saturday to pay homage to the soldiers killed during a war with neighbouring India on September 6, 1965.

The commemoration began with the recitation in mosques of the Holy Quran and special prayers early morning for the "integrity of the country and for those war heroes."

Pakistan had fought three wars with its neighbour India since the independence of subcontinent 50 years ago on August 14, 1947 from British rule.

President Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari in a message to the armed forces called it a milestone in the history of the nation, saying 32 years ago "brave soldiers, sailors and airmen repelled Indian aggression in a befitting manner."

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said the nation remembers the supreme sacrifices by the "valiant soldiers" of Pakistan in defending the boundaries of the country.

Air Chief Marshall Fa-

rooq Feroz Khan, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, in his message said that Defence Day was a reminder of the sacrifices and heroism of "valiant armed forces in the face of an unprovoked aggression."

Special ceremonies were held at all formations, unit headquarters and installations of armed forces.

Senior Pakistan Army officers visited the graveyards of war heroes in Lahore, Gujrat, Singori, Ladian, Vehari and Rawalpindi and laid floral wreath at their graves.

In the provincial capitals including Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar and Quetta, and the army headquarters in Rawalpindi, people thronged at the arms and ammunitions display which were opened for general public.

The display included anti-tank missiles, ground-to-air missiles, anti-aircraft guns, rocket launchers, heavy artillery guns, communications equipment including radars, a modern low altitude aircraft detector and laser guided missiles.



Mir space station Commander Anatoly Solovoyov cuts through the insulation cover of the Spektr module with a special hammer-like instrument during six hours work in outer space Saturday. Solovoyov and NASA researcher Michael Foale went on a risky spacewalk trying to repair damage caused by a cargo tug that collided with the Mir station in June (Reuters photo)

Mir crew fail to find puncture in Spektr module during spacewalk

KOROLYOV (AFP) — Cosmonaut Anatoly Solovoyov and his NASA colleague Michael Foale returned to the Mir orbital station Saturday after failing to find any hole in the damaged Spektr module during a six-hour spacewalk.

Mission control spokesman Vsevolod Latyshev said Solovoyov and Foale were instructed to stop exploring the hull of the stricken Spektr science module because "there is no more time."

They reentered Mir at 11:07 a.m. (0711 GMT), exactly six hours after entering the vacuum of space through a hatch in the Kvant-2 module, wearing cumbersome spacesuits.

During their spacewalk, 400 kilometres above Earth, they managed to reorient two of Spektr's four solar panels, in a bid to boost the 11-year-old space station's diminished power.

They also checked the state of a third panel, damaged in the near-catastrophic June 25 collision with an incoming cargo craft, which depressurised the module.

After the collision, the previous crew had to seal off Spektr from the rest of the craft, abandon numerous experiments and sever the module's power cables, which reduced Mir's power

supply by about 40 per cent.

Solovoyov found collision marks on Spektr's thermal insulation panels Saturday and cut away sections of them, hoping to find a hole — believed to be no bigger than a postage stamp — which could have caused the depressurisation.

The third crew member, cosmonaut Pavel Vinogradov, remained inside the main section of Mir, in radio contact with his colleagues and filming the spacewalk through a window.

Foale was also filming the damaged module and Solovoyov's work.

Several more spacewalks will probably be needed to repair Spektr, so that it can be reopened for scientific experiments. The next spacewalk will take place on Sept. 20, Mr. Latyshev said.

Mr. Latyshev speculated that the depressurisation may have been caused not by a hole but by a loosening of the joint connecting the damaged solar panel with Spektr.

Foale and Solovoyov found a slight movement of the joint on one side during their spacewalk, he said.

During a difficult internal spacewalk on Aug. 22, Vinogradov and Solovoyov

had also failed to find any evidence of a puncture in Spektr's hull.

That spacewalk enabled them to reconnect Spektr's severed power cables and restore most of the power that had been lost after the collision.

The collision was the most serious incident to befall the Mir craft, which has been bedevilled by accidents and breakdowns in recent months, prompting U.S. officials to question its viability.

Russian space officials hope that a successful repair job on Spektr will restore the battered prestige of their manned space programme, and enable Mir to remain in service until the first elements of the Alpha international space station are orbiting in 1999.

Mir, launched in 1986, was originally designed to fly for only five years.

In addition to the June collision — one of the worst ever accidents in space — the crews on board Mir have had to tackle repeated breakdowns in the oxygen generators, and in February a faulty oxygen canister caught fire, filling the craft with smoke.

They have also had problems with the navigational system and air conditioning on board the craft.

Comoros troops, police battle residents

MORONI (R) — Government troops and riot police battled hundreds of demonstrators in the Comoros capital Saturday as civil unrest spread in the Indian Ocean islands, witnesses said.

Police used tear gas and troops fired in the air in an effort to disperse the rioters, who were demanding the resignation of President Mohammad Taki.

They accuse him of failing to crush a secessionist rebellion on Anjouan Island.

The unrest appeared to be spreading across Moroni, a tiny city of 35,000 people, and the army and police were sending in reinforcements to tackle the most serious domestic challenge to Mr. Taki's rule.

The witnesses said angry youths fought hand-to-hand battles with police and soldiers. They also threw stones, burnt tyres and set up barricades on the streets of Moroni.

"Many are waving placards denouncing Mr. Taki

for his failure to deal with the Anjouan crisis. The clashes are still continuing," said Reuters reporter Mohammad Kemardine.

Friday Mr. Taki's government conceded it had failed to quash a rebellion on Anjouan Island and called on former colonial power France to intervene. But the French government swiftly rebuffed the appeal, saying instead negotiations were the means to end what it described as an "internal problem."

The unrest broke out as Organisation of African Unity (OAU) special envoy to Comoros, Pierre Yere, headed for Anjouan to try to negotiate a ceasefire between secessionists and government troops.

Mr. Yere said Mr. Taki had agreed to withdraw his forces after they suffered a battlefield drubbing at the hands of the secessionists.

The government has blamed "white elements" using sophisticated military hardware for the stiff opposition it faced on Anjouan, in what ap-

peared a reference to mercenaries. It cited as evidence of external aggression a "foreign warship" moored off Anjouan, but gave no details.

Legendary French mercenary Bob Denard was involved in several coups attempts in the Comoros, but there was no suggestion he was involved with either side in the current wrangle.

Anjouan, the second of three islands in the Indian Ocean Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros, declared its secession on Aug. 3 after months of protest and civil unrest. Moheli, the smallest island in the archipelago, followed suit.

Secessionist leaders argue that independence from France in 1975 has brought only poverty and numerous coups and say they want a return to French rule or independence.

Chinese dissident calls for political reform

BEIJING (AFP) — Lin Mu, the former secretary of late Chinese Communist Party Chief Hu Yaobang, has sent an open letter to the upcoming 15th party congress, urging political reforms and a reassessment of the Tiananmen Square massacre.

In the letter, received here Saturday, Mr. Lin also demanded the release of all political prisoners, including Wei Jingsheng, and a strengthening of the rule of law. "These are ideas that I have wanted to voice for a long time," Mr. Lin told AFP by telephone from his home in the northern city of Xian.

"Now with the 15th party congress, which is so important for the government and the Chinese people, the time seems ripe," he added. The congress opens on Sept. 12.

In his letter, Mr. Lin argued political reform in the form of multi-party democracy was a pre-condition for social stability and economic development. "Without political reform, China is like a table where one leg is shorter than the other three," he said, calling for equal power sharing between central and local authorities, and the removal of the army from party control.

Urging the government to address those issues of greatest concern to the Chinese people, Mr. Lin's letter demanded a reassessment of the 1989 pro-democracy movement and its bloody repression by troops on June 4 of the same year. "The authorities should discriminate between justice and injustice, release those in prison and compensate the families of those who died on June 4," he said.

Mr. Lin, 70, first ran foul of the Chinese authorities in 1995, when he was picked up several times by police in Xian for co-authoring petitions demanding the release of political prisoners. In the 1960s, Mr. Lin acted as secretary to Yaobang, who was party chief of Shaanxi province at the time.

Hu became secretary general of the Chinese Communist Party in 1982, but was dismissed five years later for being soft on pro-democracy demonstrators. His death in 1989 sparked the ill-fated pro-democracy movement centred in Tiananmen square.

In his letter to the congress, Mr. Lin warned of the "very serious" social threats currently facing China — notably corruption, widening income disparities, unemployment and a lack of social welfare.

"In order to surmount these obstacles, the only way is to apply democratic principles and to govern by law not force," Mr. Lin said. He also called for a purge of corrupt judicial officials, warning that their abuse of power severely hampered the country's development.

In order to encourage the process of political reform, Mr. Lin argued for revisions to the constitution, suppressing all articles that opposed free speech and promoted media censorship.

Concerns about unemployment and welfare have been growing in intensity as the central government accelerates reforms of its lumbering state sector, forcing cost-cutting and bankruptcy on more and more of the most loss-making enterprises.

As China has yet to develop a modern social security mechanism, no real safety net exists for increasing numbers of laid-off workers — inflating urban resentment and the possibility for unrest.

Under the socialist economic system that prevailed until market reforms began in the early 1980s, workers enjoyed the right to employment and complete, grade-to-grade welfare guarantees.

Hashimoto cites 'differences' during meetings with Chinese leaders

BEIJING (AFP) — Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Saturday that he and Chinese leaders had "differences" on Taiwan's inclusion in U.S.-Japanese security planning during his visit here this week.

"At our summit meeting, I explained the basic position we have, to Premier Li Peng... We exchanged differences of view and in this sense, had a good dialogue," he told a media briefing.

Mr. Hashimoto said during all his meetings — including talks with President Jiang Zemin late Friday — "I believe we were able to deepen China's understanding of the Japanese position."

The Chinese leaders did not agree with the position and remained concerned, he said, adding however that the Japanese side planned to boost transparency on security issues. "I, in particular, consider it important to establish a relationship of trust in security by expanding our dialogue," he said.

He said a "good and stable" triangular relationship between China, Japan and the United States is "indispensable."

Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama caused a

furore just weeks before Mr. Hashimoto's visit here by admitting in a televised interview that a potential conflict between China and Taiwan was included in U.S.-Japanese security guidelines.

Beijing, which considers Taiwan a renegade province, has condemned the existence of such plans as gross interference in its internal affairs.

The Japanese premier is here on a four-day visit to celebrate the 25th anniversary of normalised Sino-Japanese diplomatic ties.

According to analysts, Mr. Kajiyama's public statement is the issue, not the fact that cross-strait conflict appears in Tokyo's military contingency plans something Beijing secretly takes for granted.

Asked if he would take precautions to prevent cabinet members from disturbing Sino-Japanese relations with indiscreet comments in the future, Mr. Hashimoto said Japanese officials are obliged to "respond to any question" put to them formally and urged journalists to "moderate" their questions.

The prime minister is expected later Saturday in the northeastern town of Shenyang, where he will visit the site of the

Manchurian incident of September 18, 1931, in which extremist elements of the Japanese army blew up a railway and blamed it on Chinese troops.

The incident ignited a full-scale Japanese military offensive on China.

Mr. Hashimoto said his decision to visit a museum which records the event demonstrates Tokyo's recognition of the past.

"This is looking at history squarely," he said.

Asked why nationalist politicians in Japan continue to provoke China with unrepentant acts or statements on the war, he said: "There are many people saying different things... they don't follow the government view or the majority of the Japanese people."

He said a statement of "deep remorse" made by then Premier Tomiichi Murayama in 1995 was Japan's official view, adding that he was involved in drafting the statement.

Beijing has indicated it does not consider the statement an adequate apology.

Mr. Hashimoto will be the first Japanese premier to visit China's northeast, where Japan ruled through the puppet state of Manchukuo from the 1930s to its 1945 defeat in World War II.

Groups vow to topple Ethiopian government

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Ethiopian political and Islamic groups based in Somalia have founded an alliance aimed at overthrowing the government of Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, saying it is an oligarchy of an "undemocratic minority."

The new organisation — the Oromo, Somali and Afar Liberation Alliance (OSALA) — was formed in Mogadishu Friday and said it had established a military force to fight against current governments in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

"OSALA is a culmination of many years of relentless struggle of few far-sighted Oromo, Somali and Afar individuals and groups," the alliance's Chairman Bushra Hussein told a news conference here.

The group comprises the United Oromo People's Liberation Front (UOPLF), Oromo Abbo Liberation Front (OALF), Somali People's Liberation Front (SPLF), Oromo People's Liberation Organisation (OPO), Afar People's Liberation Army (APLA) and Islamic Union of Western Somalia (IUWS).

It accused the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of backing "Albanian-style Communist" regimes in Ethiopia and Eritrea and said the governments had killed millions of people opposed to them.

OSALA vowed to put an end to "centuries of Judeo-Christian ideological hegemony" in Ethiopian and Eritrea and install governments committed to the principles of self-determination for all people.

It said the Horn of Africa region was predominantly Muslim and should therefore be governed according to Islamic tenets, although other religions would be tolerated and given official recognition.

Ethiopia has in recent past accused Islamic groups based in neighbouring Somalia of carrying out raids inside Ethiopia and undermining stability in the eastern Ethiopia, inhabited mainly by ethnic Somalis.

Heavily armed Ethiopian troops in August last year attacked the strongholds of the Al Jihad Al Islam, one of the groups accused by Ethiopia of carrying out terrorist raids inside Ethiopia, in the Gedo region of southern Somalia.

Leading H. Kong Democrat more optimistic about Chinese rule

HONG KONG (AFP) — Leading Hong Kong Democrat, Martin Lee is more optimistic about the territory's future under Chinese rule than he was when the territory was handed over by Britain just over two months ago, a report said Saturday.

But Democratic Party Chairman Lee said he still holds grave concerns over political changes and restrictions of civil liberties, the South China Morning Post reported.

Mr. Lee and other members of his party and allies dominated the elected Legislative Council which was scrapped when China resumed sovereignty over Hong Kong on July 1. That body was replaced by a Beijing-appointed legislature, though elections with limited franchise are scheduled to be held next May.

"To a small degree, I'm more optimistic at this moment," Mr. Lee was quoted as saying. "I had good reasons in the past to feel worried about the future."

New laws introduced after the handover, when Tung Chee-hwa was appointed Hong Kong's

first chief executive, restrict the right to demonstrate and impose controls on political and other organisations, though no individuals or groups have yet faced sanctions under the legislation.

"We had a tyrant created by China, having all the draconian powers he needed," Mr. Lee was quoted as saying in the report, which did not indicate where he was speaking.

"He has not used any yet. But there's no guarantee he's not going to use it tomorrow. We can only say the dictator has been benign."

Meanwhile, a mainland Chinese paramilitary officer in full uniform illegally crossed the Hong Kong border as a result of "emotional problems," a government spokesman said Saturday.

The unarmed People's Armed Police officer crossed a bridge at the Lowu frontier checkpoint Friday afternoon and was immediately detained by local police, the spokesman added.

He was returned to China about one hour later at his own request. "We have learned that

the officer seemed to be suffering from personal emotional problems," the spokesman said when asked why he had crossed the border.

It is believed to be the first such illegal crossing since Hong Kong returned to Chinese rule on July 1.

Hong Kong is now a semi-autonomous region of China but retains an independent police force and effectively the same border controls with the mainland as existed under British rule.

James To, the Democratic Party spokesman on security, called for a detailed account by the government on the case and said the incident raised serious questions about border security.

"At least our system detected the happening of the event. I think the other side — Shenzhen side, should have at least reviewed the system to see why seemingly an officer not on duty can pass through their system and come to our side," Mr. To said.



Land, sea battle initiated polio

There is a battle for the land, sea battle initiated polio...

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Chinese dissident calls for political reform

BEIJING (AFP) — A former senior Chinese Communist Party official has called for political reform in the 15th part of his 15-part series of essays.

In the latest, published on Sunday, Mr. Hu Yaobang, who headed the political system, said the Chinese government should be more open and democratic.

There are some who want to see the Chinese government become more open and democratic, Mr. Hu said.

Now with the Chinese government, which is the most open and democratic in the world, the Chinese government should be more open and democratic.



Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic waves to supporters during rally in central Bosnian town of Sipovo. Ms. Plavsic called on all Bosnian Serbs to vote in upcoming municipal elections in Bosnian Serb Republic (Reuters photo)

Land, sea battle shatters U.N. initiated polio truce in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (AFP) — Heavy fighting erupted between Sri Lankan troops and Tamil Tiger rebels on land and sea Saturday, despite a temporary truce brokered by a United Nations agency to carry out an immunisation programme, officials said.

The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) ambushed a group of soldiers in the eastern district of Polonnaruwa Saturday morning and killed three soldiers, the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

It said two soldiers were seriously wounded in the confrontation. There were no immediate reports of rebel casualties.

Hours earlier, navy gun boats and a flotilla of boats of the LTTE clashed off Chalai, in the north-east of the country, leaving several rebels killed or wounded, official sources said.

They said three boats of the Tigers were sunk by the Israeli-built Dvora gun boats which also suffered damage during the intense pre-dawn battle.

"At least one boat that was sunk carried Tiger suicide cadres," an official said.

The LTTE has successfully used its elite suicide fighters known as Black Tigers to ram explosives packed boats and trucks against navy craft and other military facilities in the past.

The United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF, had announced earlier that both the LTTE and President Chandrika Kumaratunga's government agreed to observe Friday and Saturday as "days of tranquillity."

The truce was aimed at carrying out a nation-wide polio immunisation campaign that will also cover children in areas of the island's embattled north and east.

It was not immediately clear if the latest fighting would affect the immunisation programme. The truce, however, held on the first day Friday, officials said.

There had been similar ceasefire periods in 1995 as well as last year. Both parties have agreed not to carry out military operations on October 10 and 11 too to allow the second round of the immunisation.

The LTTE in a statement from its London office Friday said diarrhoea was spreading fast in the coastal area of Mullaitivu under

Songs and dances kick off Moscow anniversary bash

MOSCOW (AFP) — Traditional Russian songs and dances by artists dressed in bright red costumes kicked off the celebrations late Friday to mark Moscow's 850th anniversary.

Speaking at opening ceremonies by the statue of the city's legendary founder, Yuri Dolgoruki, Russian President Boris Yeltsin said that in spite of its "respectable age" Moscow was still looking good, and becoming more beautiful each year.

Earlier in the day aircraft seeding the unseasonable clouds over the city with silver iodide in a bid to keep the rain off the weekend of celebrations.

A gala concert was staged late Friday evening in Red Square, though star international tenor Luciano Pavarotti, who had been scheduled to perform, cancelled at the last minute.

On the agenda for Saturday was a parade headed by Moscow's energetic Mayor Yuri Luzhkov and a spectacular laser show by French composer Jean-Michel Jarre.

The celebrations will wind up Sunday in the enormous Luzhniki Stadium, covered with a new roof, where 50,000 people will watch a show by 2,500 artists.

In the streets Muscovites and visitors from outside can enjoy free concerts and spectacles, join parades and taste culinary delights prepared by chefs from all over the country.

Hundreds of buildings have been repainted, streets resurfaced and bedecked with flags, and buildings inaugurated, including a new pedestrian bridge across the Moscow River, the Luzhniki Stadium, a huge underground shopping mall near the Kremlin and the Christ the Saviour Cathedral, pulled down by Soviet dictator Josef Stalin and recently rebuilt.

Indonesia's ruling party tips chairman as house speaker

JAKARTA (AFP) — Indonesia's ruling Golkar party has named its chairman, Harmoko, as a candidate for house speaker for the 1997-2002 term, a report said here Saturday.

"As winner of the general election, with the support of the majority of the people, of course we would like the house speaker to be from Golkar," said Mr. Harmoko, said top party official, Abd-dul Ghafur.

However Mr. Ghafur was quoted by the Kompas daily as saying that Golkar would only officially nominate Mr. Harmoko after the new parliamentary members for the 1997-2002 term are sworn in on October 1.

Besides being the chairman of President Suharto's Golkar party, Mr. Harmoko was previously the country's information minister.

However in a surprise move, Mr. Harmoko was replaced by Army Chief General Raden Hartono in June, shortly after the May 29 general elections in which Golkar swept over 75 per cent of the votes.

Mr. Harmoko was appointed state minister for special assignments, which mainly involves preparing new parliamentarians for their positions. Analysts have predicted that the reshuffle was done to prepare Mr. Harmoko to

be speaker.

Under Mr. Harmoko as information minister, the authorities banned two leading newspapers, Sinar Harapan and Prioritas, and three leading weeklies — Tempo, Editor and DeTik. The bannings received intense domestic and international criticism.

If he becomes house speaker, Mr. Harmoko would be the first civilian to attain the post since Mr. Suharto's New Order government came to power in the late 1960s. Previous house speakers, including current speaker Gen. Wahono were retired armed forces generals.

Bosnian Serb parliament to decide Wednesday on holding elections

PALE (AFP) — The Bosnian Serb Parliament is to meet next Wednesday to decide whether to hold municipal elections as scheduled on Sept. 13 and 14, Bosnian Serb Vice-President Aleksa Bubica said.

Bosnian Serb hardliners Friday demanded that the crucial elections be postponed to the end of the month, but the United States insisted the vote would go ahead with or without the Serbs.

"The last word on whether municipal elections will be held or not will be given by our parliament, probably during its meeting on Sept. 10," Mr. Bubica said.

He was speaking after talks with the head of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe mission in Bosnia, Robert Frowick.

Mr. Bubica said the parliament's decision depended on the updating of electoral lists. There would be further talks with Mr. Frowick Monday and Tuesday, and "positive results" would facilitate a parliamentary agreement, he added.

Mr. Frowick meanwhile insisted the polls would be held as scheduled. "We made some very considerable progress today and for our part we expect to be able to resolve remaining questions over the next few days," he said.

Top Serb hardliner Momcilo Krajisnik earlier told U.S. Ambassador Richard Kaularich that the voter lists were rigged and demanded time for a "re-assessment of the electoral lists and rules of the vote," the Serb news agency (SRNA) reported.

The Serb demand, the latest in a string of calls fired out by the hardliners opposed to the Bosnian peace process, puts the Serbs in direct opposition to Washington, which said Friday the elections must proceed as planned.

"If they (the Bosnian Serbs) do not want to participate, the elections will go ahead without them," Robert Gelbard, the U.S. envoy to Bosnia, told journalists at a breakfast in Brussels.

The warning came as NATO ambassadors met with the alliance's Supreme Commander in Europe, Wesley Clark, to discuss security for the elections, whose success is seen as crucial to the prospects of establishing a long-term peace.

The U.S. stance was backed up by a firm statement from the International Contact Group on Bosnia.

"Municipal elections ... will proceed as scheduled, on Sept. 13 and 14," the Contact Group insisted in a statement.

Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the U.S. also warned that any attacks on international personnel in Bosnia would be greeted with force and that inflammatory broadcasts by the Bosnian Serb media would not be tolerated by the NATO-led Stabilisation Force (SFOR).

The polls, which were first supposed to take place last year and have already been delayed three times, are to elect municipal councils across the whole of Bosnia.

A bitter power struggle is underway within the Bosnian Serb leadership with the now pro-Western Serb President Biljana Plavsic on one side and her former ally and predecessor Radovan Karadzic on the other.

The Karadzic camp fears the local polls, in which Muslims and Croats "ethnically cleansed" during the war are to participate, could lead to the Serbs losing areas under their control.

Mr. Krajisnik said Friday there were "numerous irregularities" in the compilation of the voter lists.

"In certain communes, the number of Muslims is higher than the number of Muslims who lived there before the war," he said.

"For unknown reasons, a great number of Serbs have been wiped off the electoral lists, as have lots of candidates of the Serb Democratic Party," — the headline ruling Serb party Mr. Krajisnik belongs to.

Earlier in Banja Luka, Ms. Plavsic's stronghold, Mr. Frowick told reporters that "administratively everything is prepared for the municipal elections."

"I believe these elections will take place everywhere in the country, in all parts of RS (the Serb-run part of Bosnia)," he added.

Raul Castro vows to arrest blast perpetrators

CIENFUEGOS (AFP) — Raul Castro, brother and designated successor of President Fidel Castro, vowed Friday that the people who authored a series of blasts in Havana will be arrested.

The blasts, which killed a 32-year-old Italian tourist Thursday, "are raising the ire of all the people," Mr. Castro, who is head of the country's armed forces, said in this central Cuban city.

"I take full responsibility in assuring you that our interior minister can find a needle in a haystack," said Mr. Castro, who attended military ceremonies here marking the 40th anniversary of the fall of Cuban dictator, Fulgencio Batista.

An explosion rocked Havana's best known bar late Thursday, a former haunt of Ernest Hemingway popular with tourists. Ear-lier in the day, blasts at three ocean-front hotels in Havana's posh Miramar district killed Fabio Di Celmo, a Genoan-born Italian national living in Montreal, Canada.

Di Celmo was the first fatality in a wave of bomb attacks on tourist hotels apparently aimed at undermining the vital tourist trade.

Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina said meanwhile that the United States must act to stem the wave of attacks, which has included seven bombings in less than two months.

Mr. Robaina said Cuban authorities had evidence that the blasts, which he called "terrorist" attacks, were "organised, supplied and directed from U.S. territory," and were part of the U.S. goal of strangling the Cuban economy.

Although U.S. officials have denied any knowledge or involvement in the violence and have condemned the attacks, Mr. Robaina said that was not enough.

"It is there (in the United States) where these crimes are being concocted, and they must be attacked there with concrete actions," Mr. Robaina told journalists.

The Mexican government Friday condemned "most energetically" the attacks on tourist sites in Cuba, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement issued in Mexico City.

Mexico "profoundly regrets the injuries inflicted on innocent people and, above all, the irretrievable loss of life of the Italian Fabio Di Celmo," the statement said.

The statement said the Mexican government "rejects terrorism regardless of the reasons used to justify it." Mexico also expressed "solidarity with the Cuban people and government" as well as "anger over the injuries created by the violence against our sister nation."

Unknown group claims deadly Philippine blasts

MANILA (AFP) — A previously unknown group claimed responsibility Saturday for two grenade blasts in the Philippines in which seven people were killed and dozens injured, a radio report said.

The group, which identified itself as the Filipino Soldiers for the Nation, said they supported changes to the constitution which would allow President Fidel Ramos to serve a second term, in a statement to the private radio station DZBB.

Seven people were killed in the two explosions which occurred within minutes of each other Wednesday. Three bystanders were killed in one blast at a crowded Manila street and four died in an explosion inside a bus north of the capital, police said.

The proposed rewrite of the constitution is widely seen as being aimed at letting Mr. Ramos serve a second term beyond his one permitted six-year stint, which ends on June 30 next year.

"The two explosions Wednesday ... are just the beginning of a series of military actions by the Filipino Soldiers for the Nation," the group said in the statement written in the Tagalog national language.

"Now, the progress and peace being experienced by the country under the leadership of President Fidel Ramos is being destroyed by some people who are not in favour of real change," said the statement.

"We want to tell the people that the issue of constitutional change is very important and justify the declaration of martial law. A series of mysterious blasts rocked the country before Marcos declared martial law in 1972. 'I am not the dictator type,' Mr. Ramos told business leaders Friday, citing his role in the restoration of democracy when he helped lead the 1986 popular uprising that toppled Marcos.

Police said they were still investigating a motive for the explosions. News reports Saturday said justice department agents had found two rifle grenades at a garbage dump in Manila Friday.

Former President Corazon Aquino and Manila Archbishop Cardinal Jaime Sin have called on Filipinos to join a rally on Sept. 21 to oppose moves to amend the national charter.

Bomb explodes at Tajikistan reconciliation talks site

DUSHANBE (AFP) — A bomb exploded late Friday in a Dushanbe hotel where a national reconciliation commission to bring peace to Tajikistan is scheduled to start meeting Monday.

The blast caused material damage to the first floor of the building but no casualties, the Interior Ministry said.

The commission made up of government and opposition members has to supervise the application of the June 27 peace accord signed in Moscow which ended five years of Tajik civil war.

It will establish a joint electoral commission to prepare for free and democratic parliamentary elections set for 1998.

Earlier Friday, a unit of 206 opposition Islamic fighters arrived in Dushanbe to help protect the National Reconciliation Commission.

An Interior Ministry spokesman said the bomb

Kabul faces bleak options for future

KABUL (R) — For the long-suffering citizens of Kabul daily life is a struggle — much of the city is in ruins and the occupying Taliban forces are seeking to impose a purist vision of Islam.

But despite their hardships, Kabulis have no strong wish to see a victory of the opposition, whose guns are now less than 20 kilometres from the city.

The recapture of Kabul by opposition commander, Ahmad Shah Masood would not be a reassuring prospect for many people despite the relative liberalism he promises.

Mr. Masood was the military power behind the ousted government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

"Under Mr. Masood it was terrible in Kabul. His commanders were corrupt and made looting a way of life. The city was under constant bombardment and was blockaded for almost four years. All the destruction you see happened when Masood was in power," says one Afghan.

There is a deep ambivalence as to whether the opposition would make better masters than the Taliban, even though the Islamic purists have a stern creed.

The Taliban, who took Kabul almost a year ago, have banned women from the work place and forced them to wear the all-enveloping burqa veil — a shroud-like garment with a small hexagonal patch of gauze to see out of — in public, and ordered men to grow beards.

The city was an island of relative modernity in a country that often feels as though it is mired in the middle ages, and its relatively cosmopolitan population fear they are being dragged back from the brink of the twentieth century.

These people have no idea of the world, they are trying to force Kabul to conform to the social values of a rural southern village," says an Afghan, who did not want his name used. Criticism of the Taliban leaves one open to accusations of being a bad Muslim.

"In the three years since they first became a force in Afghanistan, they have not learnt how to govern. There is no structure and they defer all questions of policy, saying they will be addressed when the emergency is over," he says.

But he says the Taliban may be the lesser of two evils and deserve credit for bringing a measure of much-needed security, particularly in the rural areas. Before the arrival of the

NEWS ANALYSIS

education.

Kabul's huge population of widows has suffered disproportionately. In a July ordinance, the Taliban banned women from receiving aid directly, saying that it had to be channelled through their male relatives.

At least one aid agency has closed down its operations in protest at the decree.

For most of the city's residents, the most pressing problem is the state of the economy.

"I have no job and there are no jobs to be found. No one has any money," says Abdul Hamid.

Kabul's heavy industrial base has been destroyed. In the past years the government has provided most of the employment, but the Taliban have been unable to pay its civil servants.

The United Nations estimate that almost half of the population of Kabul receive some sort of assistance from the international community.

A recent survey showed that over half of the city's residents had been forced to sell some of their belongings to survive.

There is little sign that either the Taliban or the opposition will be able to improve the lives of people in Kabul any time soon.

[illegible]

Interdependent approach is needed for effective school curriculum change

By Richard Tanner

WHEN THE Ministry of Education wants to change the curriculum, where does it go for help and guidance? Inevitably, as the curriculum is a set of subjects, it goes to the university departments dealing with the subject(s) involved. After some discussions, the ministry commissions academic writers to draft textbooks for students, which are printed and distributed to schools at the end of one school year for implementation at the beginning of the next.

This represents the fastest and cheapest way to change what is taught in schools, satisfies both government and academics who can now blame teachers for any student shortcomings. Teachers continue teaching in the same way — they are usually traditionalists — and nothing fundamental changes. Everyone is dissatisfied, except maybe the parents, falsely reassured that what was good enough for them will be good enough for their children.

But the world is changing. When I was young, we learnt spelling, as there were no spell-checkers, mental arithmetic, as there were no electronic calculators, handwriting, as there were no word processors. Foreign countries were foreign, as few people travelled, jet aircraft were in their infancy, cars quite rare, and so on. If change in England was fast, how much faster is it in Jordan? And yet, teachers continue to teach much the same material in much the same way. Of course, they have rarely been trained, hardly ever seen anyone teach other than their own teachers: older teachers teach what they have taught for years and younger ones are often too scared to innovate — it is safer and easier to stay in the groove.

Some children do not succeed in school; teachers are exceptions, otherwise how and why would they become teachers? Their values came from the successful end of the spectrum, revealed in that "could do better" comment on end-of-year reports. Too many teachers put too many students off learning for life, except to pass exams. How many of us have recently picked up a book to read, written an article or taken a course to further our personal development? Yet, in this changing world, we all know the importance of education. So what can be done to develop more effective teaching and learning in our schools?

This debate is carried on around the world. A continuum of methods can be detected, ranging from centrally directed, as in Jordan, participative to fully democratic. I will have some illustrations

from England, which I know best. There, because school-leaving exams were all important, curriculum change was brought about by examination change. When Margaret Thatcher raised the school-leaving age from 15 to 16 years, in the mid-1970s, there was a flurry of activity which resulted in the growth of the CSE, a lower-level exam than the GCE, designed to cater for the less able student. The exam boards gave two or three years' notice of the change and ran workshops for groups of teachers to prepare them. Dispensing wisdom from the centre to the periphery like this still continues with exams into higher education like Advanced Level (AL) and International Baccalaureate (IB).

A more participative approach rapidly followed as GCE and CSE were combined in the 1980s into GCSE, an exam for all 16-year-olds. Teachers with expertise were recruited to aid the development of GCSE alongside teacher trainers: the periphery began to influence the centre. Projects like geography for the Young School Leavers (GYSL) developed from CSE into GCSE using teacher trainers from one university. They designed the new curriculum with sample materials for testing in trial schools. Successful practice was replicated in clusters of new GYSL schools, with experienced teachers training other teachers in how to use the new materials and, more importantly, how to design their own, all supported by headteachers and adviser-inspectors.

Naturally, this took two or three years to set up the project, six to 18 months to train such clusters, and two years to teach the course to students. But it was so successful that GYSL is still running, 25 years later, across England and Wales. One of the reasons for its continuing success is its feedback system, built in from the start, where teachers are enabled, feel their views are heard, and the periphery does influence the centre: in short, they "own" the project.

If this interactive method is successful in influencing the periphery and in changing what teachers and students actually do in the classroom, then why not go to the end of the spectrum with a fully interdependent approach? Government could canvass views about curriculum change from the public, the providers and the end-users, publish a consultative paper, inviting comments from interested parties, then set up task groups to deliver the changes agreed. To do so would require an informed public, professional providers, involved end-users and open communi-

cation between all three groups. Having been a significant local player in the "Industry in Schools" project from 1985-92, I can outline the potential benefits:

(i) government sets agreed criteria and pays on delivery;

(ii) teachers are actively involved with one another, sharing good ideas and practices;

(iii) government appoints, teachers and trainers, parents and employers meet to achieve common goals and gain confidence in one another.

Such a participative, evolutionary method of curriculum change is likely to prove the most effective, even if it is the slowest, especially in its early stages. Democratic methods take time.

The question to be posed to government and public is "Where is Jordan now?" to teachers and school boards, "Where is your school?" If the Ministry of Education still believes in the centralised, top-down, model of curriculum change, then only the fast but ineffective directed method is available to it. If the universities and trainers are remote from schools, they can play no useful role. If school principals and boards believe they are still tending "secret gardens," then they should expect imposition from above. If teachers are unwilling or unable to participate, they too can expect a dominant centre-periphery approach.

Even if a school is willing to participate, and I know several trying to change, it cannot do so alone. The range of experiences needed can only come from groups of teachers sharing experiences from different schools. Such groups must be open to outsiders, both professional (teachers, academic specialist) and lay (parent, employer).

Time and money, probably not that much, and, above all, support and encouragement need to be given to ensure successful innovation. No man is an island, yet if schools remain insular, this participative, periphery-based model is doomed to failure.

Education is too important to be left to vested interests. If Jordan needs a curriculum change, and a changing world demands that, and if we know how effective curriculum change can be brought about, isn't it time for government and education to move? Jordan's children and its future prosperity depend on both.

The writer is teacher of geography at the Baccalaureate School, Amman. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

12 years on, NHF is one of the leading development-oriented institutions

By a reporter

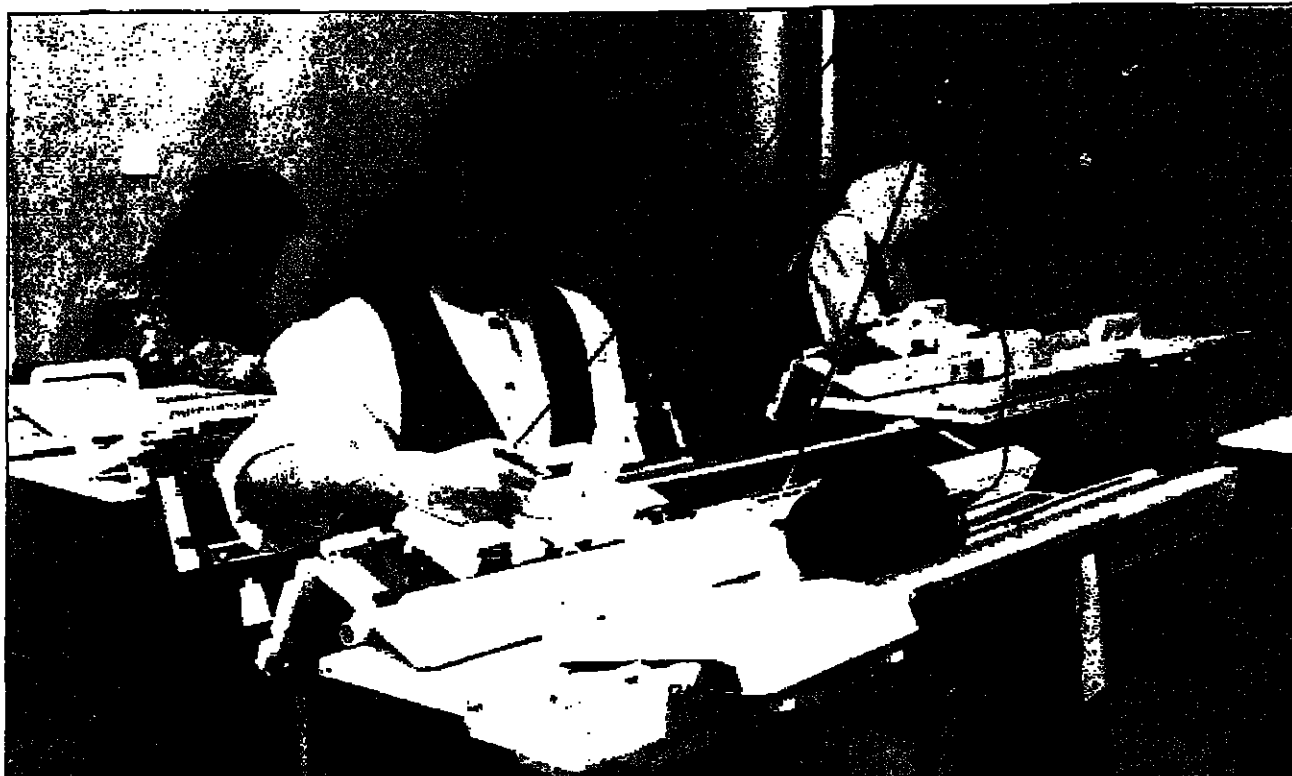
ON SEPT. 4, 1985, Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) was established by a Royal Decree to consolidate Her Majesty Queen Noor's diverse and expanding development endeavours. The foundation seeks to identify and meet different development needs in Jordan, to introduce innovative and dynamic integrated community development models and to set national standards of excellence in human and socio-economic development, education, culture and arts.

Twelve years later, the foundation has expanded into an extensive network of projects spread across the Kingdom. The impressive growth achieved by NHF in the last 12 years was made possible by new, innovative perspectives for development that do not see socio-economic and cultural changes merely as a "top down, one-way process" with a heavy economic focus.

"We do not get involved in charity work, preferring to support individuals and communities in development projects that promote self-reliance, self-help and self-management," says NHF Executive Director Yasser Tal. He added that NHF supports democratic grassroots participation in decision making and implementation of development projects and maximises the use of appropriate technology and local resources.

Unlike some traditional, one-time development projects, NHF's programmes are designed to be long-term, with heavy focus on initiating and sustaining income-generating ventures. The foundation's Quality of Life Project (QLP) is a case in point.

Currently implemented on 15 sites, the project, which benefits about 7,000 people, was established to enhance the overall quality of life in the rural areas of the Kingdom by promoting



Working for oneself: NHF projects enable people to become self-sufficient, enriching their lives both spiritually and financially

patterns of integrated development that draw heavily on consensus-building and human resource development.

"Thanks to NHF's Quality of Life Project, I became a businessman after years of unemployment," says Zaki Awad. He is now earning a monthly income of JD 85 as a guard in one of the QLP's palm nurseries, in addition to the yield he gets from planting ornamental trees that the project provided him with and from his bee-keeping project which he launched with assistance from the QLP.

Another project that works within the family and community development is the Wadi Seer Community Development Project, which seeks to accelerate comprehensive socio-economic development in five villages in the Wadi Seer area. Its site became a handicraft tourism village. By implementing a market-oriented business approach that encourages individual ini-

tiative, the project, which benefits 5,442 people, seeks to revive traditional Jordanian crafts to meet market demand in Jordan's growing tourism sector.

"The first step before we start a project is study the marketability of its output in order to ensure sustainability and create job opportunities," says Mr. Tal.

The question of product marketability becomes especially significant when it comes to items requiring a high degree of accuracy and creativity, such as handicraft.

The foundation sponsors a handicraft development project that seeks to revive traditional crafts and preserve a unique aspect of Jordan's national heritage. Training of craftspeople takes place at the Salt Handicrafts Centre which is dedicated to the development of a new generation of skilled Jordanian craftspeople and trainers, while the Jordan Design and Trade Centre (JDTC) seeks to raise the standard of Jordanian handicrafts production in order to create marketing opportunities.

When NHF offered Fada Mijwel the opportunity to benefit from its JDTC's project in Al Husseinyya village, Ms. Mijwel and her family were living below the poverty line. Now she is earning a monthly income of up to JD 200 as a rug weaver, and that made her able to finance her son's education at the University of Jordan.

Another component of the NHF development philosophy is that all projects and programmes are created to meet emerging needs of communities. For instance, the need for an institution to raise child health care standards in Jordan by improving growth monitoring, diagnosis and treatment practices has given rise to the establishment of NHF's Institute for Child Health and Development. Until now the number of children registered at the institute is 6,657, while the number of mothers registered reached

2,552.

The NHF has established projects that foster individual talent and creativity in the fields of education, music, theatre and cultural interaction. These include the National Music Conservatory (NMC), which was founded to encourage the development of accomplished musicians and to promote music appreciation in Jordan. Salah Maraga, one of the NMC's talented qanoun students, represented Jordan as a member of the NMC's Arab Music Ensemble in the Farnajad Festival, Turkey, in which the NMC won the first prize. He also represented Jordan in the International Qanoun Competition, held in Cairo, and won a special prize for his outstanding performance.

The Performing Arts Centre, which was launched to enhance children's learning experiences through drama and theatre, won this year the silver prize of the Third Cairo's Radio and Television Festival for its musical play "Madinat Al Sawzana," and is currently carrying out a programme for promoting non-violent resolution of conflicts in the elementary schools throughout Jordan.

The Jubilee School, which is an independent co-educational secondary school for outstanding scholarship students, graduated its first class of students this year. The school, which is dedicated to the development of the intellect and leadership potential of the Arab students, will be moved to its permanent buildings in Yajouz in the second 1997/98 academic semester. It has graduated 206 students and currently includes 358 students.

The foundation's Women-in-Development Department accelerates the integration, participation and representation of low-income women in national socio-economic development. The department initiates innovative income-generating schemes based on self-employment and home production. Pilot pro-

jects established so far include a Bee Keeping and Honey Production Project, Medicinal Herbs Project, Footwear Production Workshop, Garment Production Unit, Community Development Centre, Tricot Knitwear Project, the Population Programmes for Grassroots that introduces reproductive health and family planning concepts in 13 remote villages throughout Jordan, and the most recent Women's Leadership Programme and the tie-dye Project.

The NHF has received the Excellence in Arab Childhood Services Award in Sharjah this year for its distinguished role in child care. The foundation sponsors many projects and activities in the field of children's welfare, among which are Children's Heritage and Science Museum, the Mobile Life and Science Museum, Queen Noor Award for Children's Literature, which is opened this year for the Arab writers, and the annual Arab Children's Congress, which provided the opportunity for 1,245 children from throughout the Arab World to participate in a programme designed to promote understanding and solidarity.

The NHF projects and programmes are designed to be locally sustainable and replicable in different parts of Jordan and the region and many of its projects have been recognised by international organisations as model projects for the Middle East and the developing world.

Twelve years after it was established, NHF has realised many of the goals it has set for itself and worked its way through different obstacles to become one of the leading development-oriented institutions in Jordan.

"The NHF proceeds with a renewed vigour in its development work," says Mr. Tal, identifying difficulties and providing solutions that are responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people of Jordan it is trying to better serve.

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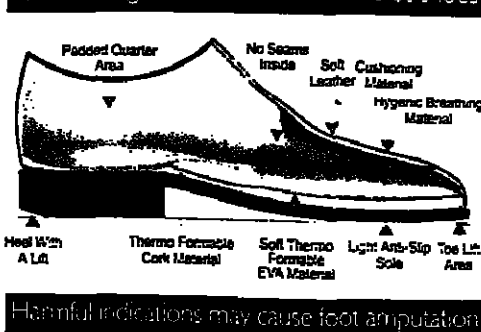
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• Qadiri Pharmacy, Abdal
• Mayyada Pharmacy, Gardens st.
• Fataha Pharmacy, Jabal Lwibde
• UmUthman Pharmacy, UmUthman
• Dayer Pharmacy, Abdoun
• Asia Pharmacy, Jabal Al-Hussein-Sukama complex
• Shawkat Pharmacy, Jabal Al-Hussein-Firas Circle
• Awa Pharmacy, Shamsan-near specialized hospital
• Jabot Complex Pharmacy, Abdallah Ghousheh st.
• Fifth Circle Pharmacy, Fifth Circle
• Biyoun Pharmacy, Windst
• Al-Shere Pharmacy, Irbid
• Safada Pharmacy, Zarqa
• Abdoun International Pharmacy, Abdoun

REUTERS

By Thomas S. Pierson,
Astrologer, Carnegie
Righter Foundation

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis lazuli.



Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Tour agents demand government intervention to stop companies from raising tourist transport fares

**** THE ASSOCIATION** of travel and tour agents has asked the government to intervene to stop the coalition of tourist transport companies from raising fares by 30 per cent from Sept. 16, 1997. The tour agents threatened that they will be forced to ask their counterparts abroad to decline accepting any reservations for tourist groups because Jordanian tourism companies cannot take the financial loss resulting from higher fares.

According to Lami'e Haddadin, the association's president, the decision of the tourist transport companies to increase the fares will hurt the Jordanian tourism and national economy.

The association rejected the request of the three transport companies to postpone their reply to the tour agents until today (Sunday) due to lack of time. They said that the period remaining to implement the decision is too close and that tour agents in the Kingdom and abroad do not have the time required to study the new fares and to compare them with neighbouring countries.

The consequences of forming the coalition and raising the fares were discussed before between the association and the companies which were given specific demands to cancel the decision. The companies promised to reply to the demands on Thursday but later requested more time until Sunday. The association is now asking the government to intervene to cancel the decision of the coalition on the grounds that it forms a monopoly. They are also requesting that tourist transport charges remain unchanged until the end of 1998.

The association is also demanding that the government reconsider the specialised tourist transport law and all our tourism offices and companies to own tourist buses just like other countries and, especially, neighbouring states. (A) Ra'i.

Businessmen urge government to lower land transport charges between Aqaba and Baghdad

**** PRIVATE SECTOR** businessmen have sent a memorandum to the prime minister demanding quick measures to lower land transport charges from Aqaba to Iraq. They demanded that charges be reduced from \$6 per tonne to \$4 per tonne for bulk wheat and other bagged products, such as rice and sugar, in order to compete with Syrian ports in supplying Iraq with food.

The memorandum explained that the requested reduction is to compensate the transit fees for passing through the Suez Canal as vessels crossing the waterway do not pay any fees if the port of discharge is on the Mediterranean Sea. "As Iraq is now asking for prices for goods to be delivered either through Aqaba or Tartous, the choice is left to international companies which should be convinced to continue providing the goods through Aqaba," the businessmen said.

The memorandum urged an expedited study to lower the land transport charges before suppliers start shipping around 250,000 tonnes of wheat to Iraq during September, October and November of this year in order to ensure that the port of discharge will be Aqaba (A) Ra'i.

Jordan awards first GDR mandate for potash firm to Nomura

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan's Arab Potash Company awarded Japanese Nomura International the mandate to lead manage the country's first GDR offering worth at least \$35 million, the company said Saturday.

The majority state-owned mining firm said Nomura was picked among seven global investment banks who had presented proposals to the firm, one of the world's major producers of potash, to arrange a GDR (global depositary receipt) by year end.

"After evaluating the seven global banks we found the best offer was from the Japanese Nomura Bank," Nasser Al Saddoun, general manager of

Arab Potash Company, told Reuters.

Mr. Saddoun said the decision had been approved by a recent meeting of the 15-member board of the firm. He expected the issue would be launched in capital markets by year-end.

Arab Potash's majority shareholder is Jordan's state investment arm while minority holdings are held by Arab governments including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Libya and Iraq.

Investment banking sources say the firms which had submitted offers apart from Nomura were HSBC Investment Bank, ING Barings, Union Bank of Switzerland, Paribas, Merrill Lynch and Flemings.

Arab Potash's offering

has seen tough competition from global bankers anxious to get the first deal out of Jordan and improve their standing in the league tables, bankers say.

The firm had asked the banks last July to submit proposals of the offering to include their track records in the Middle East and their proposed pricing range of the GDR offering.

"As for the factors we put in the evaluation the rest of the banks were close but Nomura was the best," Mr. Saddoun said.

The GDR offering, the first such issue by a Jordanian firm to tap the international equity market, would raise the company's international profile and allow other Jordanian bluechips in

future to tap cheaper credit for ambitious expansion projects.

The GDR offering follows recent progress in launching the country's first corporate bond issue issued by Jordan Phosphate Mines and a \$100 million debut sovereign Eurobond still in the works, part of accelerated efforts to attract more foreign investment in the Kingdom.

Mr. Saddoun said the GDR issue was presently a \$35 million GDR issue, putting on offer 3.62 million shares left unsubscribed from an earlier public issue.

But it could be raised significantly higher if the government decides to add a portion of a 55.4 per cent government stake in the firm, he

added. "We hope if the government agrees to bring its stocks into the GDR issue," Mr. Saddoun said.

Bankers say a larger GDR issue would help make the issue more liquid by providing wider global investor exposure and raise more financing for the company's ambitious projects.

Arab Potash, whose authorised capital is \$3.3 million dinars, has currently a 79.7 million dinar paid up capital and

has ambitious plans to develop its downstream industry.

"These funds we need to use for our expansion projects," Mr. Saddoun said.

Arab Potash plans to raise production potash capacity to 2.2 million tonnes annually by 2002 from a current 1.8 million tonnes. It has a few multi-million projects underway including one with Israel to exploit the Jordanian side of the Dead Sea.

Iran carpet exports taking off again after slump

TEHRAN (R) — Iran's luxury carpet export industry is slowly recovering from a two-year slump after new rules allowed exporters to maximise foreign currency earnings.

Leading exporters said the value and volume of hand-woven and machine-made carpet sales to the main European, Arab Gulf and Canadian consumer markets were on the rise.

The rebound, if sustained, would be a major boost for Iran's non-oil economy as the industry is the country's main foreign exchange earner after the annual \$18 billion in oil revenue.

"Exports are rising because of the new export rules... we hope this is the beginning of the revival for Iranian carpets," Akbar Heristchian, president of the 420-member Iranian Carpet Exporters Association told Reuters.

In the last two months carpet exporters have been able to capitalise on new currency regulations that allow them to exchange their hard currency at preferential rates.

The exporters can now deposit their foreign currency earnings with the central bank which will issue them a trade certificate which they can then take to Tehran's stock exchange.

At the stock exchange they can use the certificate to get some 4,700 Iranian rials to the U.S. dollar, versus the official "export rate" of 3,000 rials and the government's own rate of 1,700, the traders said.

The 4,700 rate can usually be obtained only from Tehran's illegal street currency traders.

In 1995, carpet exporters were forced to deposit all their currency with the central bank at the rate of 3,000 rials, leading to a drastic drop in official exports as firms saw little or no incentive in going through the central bank.

Carpet exporters can also import items from a list of 29 goods against their hard currency allocation, an attrac-

tive option given constantly rising prices for sought-after consumer goods in Iran.

"Now with the easing of regulations exports are on the rise. For the past four months there is a sign of increase," said Nosrattollah Mahmoudzadeh, director of Asil Carpet Co.

Exports of hand-woven carpets earned Iran \$130 million in the first three months of the Iranian year which began March 21. 21 per cent higher than the same period the previous year, according to government figures.

Government officials are targeting \$700 million to \$800 million in sales this year, versus \$602 million in the last Iranian year which was 35 per cent down from the previous year.

Iranian carpets typically fetch anywhere between 200,000 rials to 50 million rials in overseas markets, traders said.

"We faced a crisis because of the constant changing in the regulations but in the last two months it has recovered," said one exporter who said his sales had grown between 10-20 per cent.

Despite the upturn, Iranian exporters will still struggle to recapture market share lost to other weavers particularly in India, Turkey and China.

Managers also admit that they will have to improve their marketing techniques and modify designs to better meet the changing tastes of key European buyers.

"The problem is that the Iranian carpet did not defend itself in the European market. Many Europeans cannot tell the difference whether a carpet is made in Iran, India or China. It is a problem of marketing," said Mr. Mahmoudzadeh.

While in the mid-1970s Iran had more than a 50 per cent share in the world carpet market, this share had now fallen by half, a worrying development for the 2.5 million people directly involved in the industry.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN / JORDAN											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 06/09/1997											
PAST 12 MONTHS	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF	NO. OF	VALUE	OPEN	CLOSE	CHANGE		
HIGH	LOW			SHARES	TRANS.	TRADED	PRICE	PRICE			
336.000	238.500	ARAB BANK	15.3	1.20	77	2440	811050	326.00	333.00	7.00+	
2.340	1.680	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	8	0.00	15	290139	568816	1.96	1.97	0.01+	
3.600	2.760	BANK OF JORDAN	6.4	0.00	3	900	1535	3.06	3.04	-	
1.210	0.890	MID-EAST INV. BK.	60.4	0.00	5	1500	1388	0.92	0.92	-	
5.200	4.550	THE HOUSING BK.	14.2	4.08	5	3325	15793	4.75	4.75	-	
4.180	2.440	JOR. KUWAIT BK.	11.6	0.00	8	2000	6607	3.28	3.28	-	
1.050	0.760	JOR. GULF BANK	4.6	0.00	11	50414	3054	4.75	4.77	0.01+	
4.050	3.520	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	16.3	3.00	17	3906	15547	3.98	4.00	0.02+	
3.800	3.080	JOR. INV. FIN. BANK	21.9	0.00	11	36200	123075	3.41	3.40	0.01-	
2.360	0.970	SEIT-AL-BAL (SEITRA)	6	15.46	2	100	97	0.98	0.97	0.01-	
1.440	0.850	PEILADEL INV. SE.	9	0.00	9	68000	62560	0.92	0.92	-	
BANK SECTOR TOTALS											
2.210	1.590	JOR. FRENCH INDEUR.	5.0	8.43	7	7000	12336	1.79	1.78	0.01-	
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS											
1.820	1.550	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	8.2	5.88	87	98539	167778	1.68	1.70	0.02+	
7.500	6.000	VEHIC. OWNERS FED.	7.9	4.83	2	2000	14500	7.50	7.25	0.25-	
3.090	2.280	SHIPPING LINES	16.3	4.64	15	123680	346220	2.82	2.80	0.02-	
1.550	0.930	RAVIL. PORTFOLIO	5.6	0.00	30	21140	30565	1.43	1.45	0.02+	
3.720	2.890	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	8.7	0.00	7	40200	134672	3.36	3.35	0.01-	
1.220	0.930	ZARKA EDUCATION	9	0.00	8	5200	5414	1.05	1.04	0.01-	
2.230	1.630	UNIFIED CO.	8.2	6.36	2	750	1298	1.73	1.73	-	
1.010	0.640	UNION LAND DEV.	9	0.00	1	400	295	0.75	0.74	0.01-	
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS											
1.100	0.920	ATTANQUEE	9	0.00	1	600	576	1.00	0.96	0.04-	
4.450	3.220	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	26.1	2.84	25	61369	239099	3.89	3.88	0.01-	
4.140	2.930	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	10.7	2.60	1	250	963	3.80	3.85	0.05+	
10.480	9.070	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.2	8.43	28	1284	13468	10.48	10.57	0.09+	
7.200	4.500	JORDAN TRADING	1.6	0.00	1	300	1380	4.60	4.60	-	
3.260	1.620	INDUSTRIAL COMM. MGR.	9	0.00	2	180	306	1.71	1.71	-	
7.150	5.800	JOR. WORKED MILLS	10.2	3.15	31	1100	6885	6.15	6.35	0.20+	
4.350	3.040	ARAB FINANC. MNG.	12.6	4.59	31	213281	92784	4.31	4.36	0.05+	
7.200	4.500	JORDAN TRADING	1.6	0.00	1	300	1380	4.60	4.60	-	
5.650	4.300	DAR ALDINA DV. MNG.	9.7	4.50	9	1200	3083	2.53	2.58	0.05+	
3.850	2.220	ARAB ALUM. IND.	5.4	10.82	31	47000	1721	2.28	2.31	0.03+	
950	450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	10.2	0.00	31	47000	2232	0.47	0.48	0.01+	
1.290	1.000	ARAB PAPER CONV. TRD.	32.1	0.00	9	4050	4050	1.08	1.05	0.03-	
770	510	NATIONAL INDS.	9	0.00	4	3000	1650	0.56	0.55	0.01-	
1.200	0.510	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	24	16700	9743	0.58	0.58	-	
940	530	JOR. ROBINSON TRD.	9	0.00	1	2250	1485	0.64	0.64	-	
920	530	JOR. SULPHUR CHEM.	9	0.00	2	750	465	0.62	0.62	-	
1.670	1.120	ARAB FRANCH. CHEM.	17.4	5.15	24	11000	15159	1.37	1.36	0.01-	
1.880	1.080	UNIV. MCHN. INDS.	9	0.00	5	1950	2509	1.28	1.28	-	
1.510	0.910	JOR. INDS. RESOURCES	12.4	10.87	14	4600	4253	0.93	0.92	0.01-	
1.620	1.300	NATL. CHEMICALS	14.9	4.43	20	58350	89131	1.53	1.58	0.05+	
1.070	0.810	JOR. NCR CABLE CO.	15.8	0.00	6	16600	14271	0.86	0.86	-	
2.090	1.340	EL. & TEL. REPAIR WKR.	56.3	0.00	14	4594	1225	1.43	1.40	0.03-	
1.330	1.000	INTEL. TOBACCO	6.5	0.00	11	18200	21628	1.20	1.18	0.02-	
1.160	0.860	UNION CE. & VEG.	51.4	0.00	5	5450	6159	1.13	1.13	-	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS											
121.90	121.90	INDEX	121.90	0.26	279	285086	573407				
GRAND TOTAL											
174.45	174.45	INDEX	174.45	1.07	601	1042689	2931994				
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 06/09/1997											
710	410	HAIR. SOP. INST. MACH.	9	0.00	1	1000	500	0.50	0.50	-	
630	340	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	9	0.00	1	10000	3600	0.35	0.36	0.01+	
640	390	JOR. TRADE FAC.	10.4	0.00	14	15750	6143	4.40	4.39	0.01-	
950	540	JOR. FIN. INV. CO.	9	0.00	57	106650	65801	0.60	0.62	0.02+	
840	660	UNION INV. 50%	9	0.00	30	33550	12319	0.73	0.74	0.01+	
950	370	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	17	26500	11154	0.39	0.39	-	
950	610	AL-DIMLATRY 75%	72.9	0.00	12	12415	6312	0.75	0.75	0.01+	
730	490	ARAB FOOD & MED.	9	0.00	7	4500	2250	0.50	0.50	-	
570	380	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	44.9	0.00	5	3000	1170	0.39	0.39	-	
750	400	NATL. MILLS IND. MNG.	9	0.00	11	7500	3375	0.45	0.45	-	
960	890	READY MIX CONCRETE	10.7	0.00	1	10000	8900	0.89	0.89	-	
820	710	JORDAN STEEL	34.4	6.58	3	2250	1710	0.76	0.76	-	
580	460	ARAB ELECT. INDS.	9	0.00	2	2000	980	0.49	0.49	-	
710	580	MID-EAST PETRO. 75%	9	0.00	7	11000	4400	0.64	0.65	0.01+	
1.190	0.860	UNION TOBACCO 75%	9	0.00	3	2050	1851	1.16	1.14	0.02-	
730	550	RAZI PHARM. 85%	9	0.00	14	17800	9668	0.73	0.69	0.04-	
570	290	INDOS. IND.	9	0.00	5	4594	2625	0.31	0.31	-	</

U.S. Open

Williams on history's brink but Hingis awaits

NEW YORK (AFP) — Venus Williams put herself on the brink of becoming the first black woman to win a Grand Slam singles title in 39 years and the first unseeded women's champion in U.S. Open history.

But blocking her path to tennis immortality is top-ranked Martina Hingis, looking to make some history of her own.

The teen sensations became the youngest Grand Slam finalists in the Open era with victories here Friday, Williams bumping out Irina Spirelea 7-6 (7/5), 4-6, 7-6 (9/7) and Hingis beating Lindsay Davenport 6-2, 6-4.

Williams, the 17-year-old American with the beaded dreadlocks, became the first woman since Pam Shriver in 1978 to reach the finals in her U.S. Open debut.

"I'm super-stoked," Williams said. "I've worked so hard for this all my life and here I am. Oh man, this is just like a dream. I'm going to just have to calm down. I'm so happy."

"This is a chance of a lifetime, the tournament of a lifetime."

Althea Gibson is the only black Grand Slam women's champion, winning here and at Wimbledon in 1957 and 1958 and at the 1956 French Open. The first Open match played by Williams here was on Gibson's 70th birthday.

Reigning Wimbledon and Australian Open champion Hingis seeks her 10th title of 1997 here Sunday. The 16-year-old Swiss avenged one of two losses in her 65-win season by beating the 1996 Olympic champion.

"It's going to be pretty tough for Martina to lose the final," Davenport said. "She wants these Grand Slam titles more than anything. She is playing well. She seems fired up."

Hingis beat 6th-ranked Williams in their two prior meetings, both this year, winning 6-4, 6-2 at Key Biscayne and 6-2, 6-1 in San Diego.

"I'm sure she is going to be ready," Williams said.

Williams, whose best pro payday was \$20,500 for a quarter-final loss this year at Indian Wells, is assured of \$350,000 and would take home \$650,000 for beating Hingis.

In a two-hour and 42-minute showdown of Slam semi-final debutants, 11th seed Spirelea squandered two match points. Williams hit a backhand winner and Spirelea sent a forehand into the net in the last tiebreaker.

The Romanian saved Williams' first match point with a forehand winner to equalize at 7-7 but slapped consecutive backhands into the net to end the match, sending Venus into orbit with joyous jumps and screams.

Tension showed on both players' faces throughout the match, bubbling over in an incident after Williams held for a 4-3 lead in set two. Williams and Spirelea walked into each other on the way to their seats.

"She thinks she is 'The



Top seed Martina Hingis from Switzerland celebrates after defeating opponent Lindsay Davenport from the United States in their U.S. Open semi-final match. Hingis defeated Davenport 6-2 6-4 (Reuters photo)



Unseeded American Venus Williams screams "I won" after she defeated eleventh seed Irina Spirelea from Romania, in their U.S. Open semi-final match. Williams, playing in her first U.S. Open advanced to the final with her 7-6 4-6 7-6 victory (Reuters photo)

ing Venus Williams' and she's not going to turn," Spirelea said. "I just wanted to see if she was going to turn."

Williams didn't. But she also didn't intimidate Spirelea, who won the next three games to force a third set.

"It wasn't like a foot-ball-type incident," Williams said. "I'm not having any injuries from that bump."

Hingis, a semi-final loser here last year to Steffi Graf, could have been going for a Slam sweep had she not fallen from a horse and hurt her knee before the French Open, where Iva Majoli

beat her in the final. "I'm getting again to where I was before that fall," Hingis said. "I would say right now I'm pretty much the same (as before)."

Hingis has not lost a set in the event, conquering six foes in five hours and 47 minutes, an average win time of 57 minutes.

Davenport, who beat Hingis last month in Los Angeles, was forced to run by Hingis, who neutralized the American's size and strength advantage with precision placement of drop volleys and deep cross-court shots.

"There's no other choice if you play her or

you will give her the time to play her game," Hingis said. "You can't ever give her the pace. First you just have to block it then you have to go through the angles."

"I knew when I had the time to do that, so I would go for the drop shot right away. I made more mistakes than she actually made points."

Hingis broke seven of Davenport's final eight service games and won on a service break after 71 minutes. "After I got broken the first and second times, I lost a lot of confidence," Davenport said.

NEW YORK (AFP) — Michael Chang's second Grand Slam title is within reach, but rarely has a U.S. Open favourite looked so vulnerable entering the championship weekend of the hardcourt event.

Second seed Chang meets 13th-seeded Pat Rafter of Australia in one semi-final while unseeded rivals Greg Rusedski of Britain and Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden meet for the other berth in Sunday's final.

Chang, whose only Grand Slam title came at the 1989 French Open, has struggled through five-set victories over France's Cedric Pioline and Marcelo Rios of Chile in his past two matches.

"I've had a lot of great opportunities to win the U.S. Open and come up a little bit short," Chang said. "This is another great opportunity."

With world No. 1 Pete Sampras long gone, Chang has the experience edge over his opponents, two debutante Grand Slam semi-finalists and an Aussie better known for his flowing hair and good looks than his grand slam performances.

But Rusedski has not lost a set while Bjorkman and Rafter have each only dropped one. Chang lost as many sets against Rios alone and admitted that nervousness over his role as a favourite affected his play.

Chang won at Roland Garros as a 17-year-old boy, but his growth to manhood has included losses in three Grand Slam finals, two semi-finals and five quarter-finals.

If Chang ever wins another Grand Slam event, he will have the longest gap of any player between Slam titles. The late Arthur Ashe now holds the

mark, dating from the 1970 Australian Open to Wimbledon in 1975.

"I would not trade the five titles I have won this year for a Grand Slam title," Chang said. "I believe everything happens for a reason. God has a plan for everyone."

Such faith has sustained Chang through difficult times, but Rafter could inflict the cruellest blow yet. He beat Chang two weeks ago at Long Island in the last Open tuneup, although Chang has a 5-2 career edge over Rafter.

"We have had some good matches," Rafter said. "His game is a return of service sort of game. He is quite aggressive from the baseline. Mine is that I'm going to attack him at all opportunities."

Rafter, whose only prior Grand Slam semi-final was at this year's French Open, kept silent about his Long Island triumph except to say that when looking for weaknesses in Chang's game, "a few things popped up."

The Rusedski-Bjorkman winner will be the 29th unseeded Open finalist, the first since Andre Agassi won in 1994. Only three unseeded men have won the title.

The surprising runs of 20th-ranked Rusedski and No. 17 Bjorkman ensured every 1997 Grand Slam will have an unseeded finalist, following Spain's Carlos Moya at the Australian Open, Pioline at Wimbledon and French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil.

Bjorkman owns a 4-1 career edge over the big-serving left-hander, taking their most recent meeting last year at Key Biscayne. The Swede knows his return game will be tested by the

ball-bashing Brit.

"I'm taking the ball early, trying to use the speed of the big serve," Bjorkman said. "If I can do that I get a lot of pressure back on guys playing serve-and-volley."

Rusedski, whose best prior Grand Slam showing was reaching this year's Wimbledon quarter-finals, matched an ATP record with a 142-mph serve and became the first man to hit four serves at 140 mph or above in one event.

"But I think it's more than if his serve is working good," Bjorkman said. "He doesn't have to be afraid of staying back because he has been improving his game from the baseline. He is playing with confidence."

Bjorkman won his first two ATP Tour titles in January at Auckland and last month in Indianapolis.

"Bjorkman is playing the best tennis of his life," Rusedski said. "I'm going to have to serve well. I'm going to have to do a lot of things positively."

Rusedski, who turns 24 Saturday, is the first British man in an Open semi-final Mike Sangster in 1961 and can be the first Brit to win a Grand Slam singles crown since Fred Perry at Wimbledon in 1936.

Such a triumphant fortnight was beyond expectations for Rusedski, who was 0-3 here until this fortnight.

"Getting to the quarter-finals, I thought I could do that," Rusedski said. "Getting on to the semis is a little more surprising for me."

"I have always been positive, taken opportunities where they arise and not got down when things go against me. That has helped me a lot."

U.S. Open diary

NEW YORK (AFP) — Notes and quotes from the U.S. Open tennis championships on Friday:

Cold won't stop Rusedski. Greg Rusedski, the first British man to reach the U.S. Open semi-finals since Mike Sangster in 1961, says he won't miss the event because of a cold. Rusedski, who also turns 24 years old on Saturday, the day of the semi-finals, saw a doctor this week and is taking medication for a cold. But he said Thursday, the day after he beat Richard Krajicek in the quarter-finals, that he fully intended to play. Rusedski, who was born in Canada and adopted British citizenship in 1995, will play unseeded Swede Jonas Bjorkman in the first semi-final on Saturday. Bjorkman advanced when his quarter-final opponent, Czech Petr Korda, withdrew after one game of the third set because of a cold.

Zvereva eyes Grand Slam. World No. 1 Martina Hingis can't complete a Grand Slam at the U.S. Open tennis cham-

pionships this weekend, but Natasha Zvereva can. Zvereva and partner Gigi Fernandez defeated Nicole Pietrangeli and Manon Bollegraf on Friday to reach the women's doubles final. Zvereva has won all three of the Grand Slam doubles titles this year, claiming the Australian with Hingis, and the French Open and Wimbledon titles with Fernandez. On Saturday, she and Fernandez were to take on the third-seeded duo of Jana Novotna and Lindsay Davenport.

Kafelnikov-Vacek take doubles crown. Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Czech Daniel Vacek won the U.S. Open men's doubles title here on Friday, beating the Swedish duo of Jonas Bjorkman and Nicklas Kulti 7-6 (10/8), 6-3. Bjorkman is a singles semi-finalist as well. He will face another unseeded player, Britain's Greg Rusedski, on Saturday for a berth in Sunday's final. Top-seeded Australians Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge, who had won the past two U.S. Open doubles crowns, were ousted in the first round.

PSG close in on Metz; Monaco win

PARIS (AFP) — Paris Saint-Germain turned up the heat on early French First Division leaders Metz with an impressive 3-0 win at Strasbourg on Friday.

Metz, on 16 points, lead the table by one point from PSG after managing only a 2-2 draw at Rennes.

Elsewhere champions Monaco needed a late goal to defeat struggling Cannes 2-1, while Bastia remain third on 14 points after a fine 4-1 defeat of Bordeaux. Auxerre thrashed newly-promoted Chateauroux 5-0.

PSG had to work hard for victory at Strasbourg, despite the relatively one-sided 3-0 scoreline.

Brazilian midfielder Rai gave the Parisians the lead from the penalty spot in the 20th minute after compatriot Edmilson was brought down in the area by Valerien Ismael.

Ismael himself led Strasbourg's fightback, going close three times with free-kicks. Pascal Nouma then hit the PSG woodwork in the 58th minute before two late goals from the visitors killed the game.

Italian signing Marco Simone ran 40 yards before making 2-0 after 80 minutes and Florian Marice added a

third four minutes from time.

Metz needed a late goal in Rennes to maintain their unbeaten record. A Stephane Gregoire double strike in the first half put the home side in control, with a goal by Bruno Rodriguez keeping Metz in touch at 2-1.

Rennes absorbed the Metz attack with some comfort after the break, but were left helpless when, with a minute to go, Philippe Gaillot pounced to grab a point for the leaders.

Monaco also left it late in Cannes. Under-21 international David Trezeguet struck the 84th-minute winner after Cannes' Jean-Michel Capoue had cancelled out Victor Ikpeba's 46th-minute opener for the champions.

Two goals by Nenad Jestrovic put Bastia in control against Bordeaux, who finished the match with nine men.

Johan Micoud made it 2-1 before Michel Pavon was sent off for a second bookable offence. After the break Jean-Jacques Etame sealed Bastia's win after 79 minutes, with Piotr Swierczewski adding a fourth two minutes later. Micoud was then sent off

for his second yellow card offence to complete Bordeaux's misery.

Two Stephane Guivarch goals in three minutes gave Auxerre a 2-0 lead against

bottom club Chateauroux. Cyril Jeunechamp, Sabri Lamouchi and Frederic Danjou completed the 5-0 demolition in the second period.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
AND YANBUK HIRSH

NOTHING FOR NOTHING

Neither vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ 74
♥ Q5
♦ 87542
♣ 8

EAST
♠ J83
♥ J642
♦ A K 10
♣ 42

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 10 6 5 2
♥ A
♦ A K Q 4 3
♣ A

The bidding:
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
Pass Pass Pass Pass
4♠ Pass Pass 6♠

Opening lead: Ten of ♣

"Beware of Greeks bearing gifts." When the best player in your game wants to give you a trick to which you are not entitled, think carefully before accepting it.

This hand was played in the fledgling days of contract bridge, allowing declarer to discard two clubs on the king and queen of hearts.

Hazen, while the South player was the most experienced in the game, South simply ignored all the many actions and bid a slam in spades (despite knowing that dummy was going to contribute little if anything to the cause).

West's heart opening lead was taken in the closed hand with the ace, and the ace of spades was cashed. Declarer was visibly unhappy when West showed out. Needing to force an entry to dummy, declarer continued with the ten of spades from hand. Hazen was not sure what was going on, but one thing he knew: If South wanted to concede a trick that did not have to be lost, it could not be right to win it. He Hazen underplayed the eight of spades.

Declarer next tried the ten and king of clubs. Applying the same principle as before, East refused to ruff. That left declarer with no resource. South had to concede two club tricks for down one.

Notice that, had East taken the jack of trumps any time it was offered, declarer would have scored 12 tricks easily. The ace of trumps then becomes an entry to the table, allowing declarer to discard two clubs on the king and queen of hearts.

Sports
Athenians
Olympic v



This appointed Olympic bid one of five ca along with S. Reuters pho

World Gymnastics
Chorkina, Ivank

USANNE (AFP) — Russian gymnast Chorkina, Ivank

TODAY AT

CINEMA TEL:634144
PHILADELPHIA "1"
Val Kilmer & Elizabeth Shue...in
THE SAINT
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:634144
PHILADELPHIA "2"
THE LOST WORLD (JURASSIC PARK)
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:699238
PLAZA
Nabila Obeid... in
AL MARA' WAL SATOUR (Arabic)
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:677420
CONCORD
CONCORD "1"
The movie event of the summer is here
ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER...in BATMAN & ROBIN
(12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30)
CONCORD "2"
ACE VENTURA 1
Shows: 3:30, 6:00 only

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AMN AI AI YA HO
performance starts at 8:30 p.m.
The theatre is closed every Friday
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Athenians greet IOC's 2004 Olympic vote, sorrow for losers

PARIS (AFP) — Residents of Athens danced in the streets of the Greek capital Friday, celebrating the decision to award their city the 2004 Olympic Games.

Thousands gathered and children and youths waved flags and balloons in Olympic colours in front of the Zappion Palace in the downtown city area and motorists hit their horns to salute the victory.

Many in the streets chanted: "Hellas, Hellas (Greece, Greece)."

The celebrations began just seconds after the announcement by International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch in Lausanne, Switzerland, which was televised live by Greek television networks.

Rome, Cape Town, Buenos Aires and Stockholm were the other candidates to host the Games.

Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis said Athens' victory was a great opportunity for Greece to reinforce its international position and improve its economy.

"The Olympics Games present us with a great opportunity... and to create friendships with all the countries in the world."

"For us it is a chance to make a fresh start and to promote our culture."

Athens residents of all political persuasions joined in the celebrations. "It is certainly a magnificent moment. It is a great opportunity for Greece," said Dora Bakoyannis, a leading conservative politician.

Athens polled 66 votes to 41 for Rome in the final round of voting in Lausanne on Friday. Buenos Aires was eliminated after the first round, Stockholm in the second and Cape Town in the third.

The losing candidates accepted defeat with a mixture of grace and deep disappointment.

Romans were left in tears and disappointment.

The Piazza Navona square in central Rome had been packed with people waiting to celebrate victory after following the IOC's proceedings in Lausanne on a giant television screen.

But there were tears and even a few whistles of disapproval when Samaranch announced the Greek victory. Few people stayed to watch the dance troupe performing for the occasion and the square soon emptied.

Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi sent a message of congratulations to his opposite number in Greece, Costas Simitis.

"In the name of the Italian Government and of my country, I would like to express my warmest congratulations to Athens, after a vigorous and fair competition, for being chosen to host the 2004 Olympics," he said.

There was an equally sporting gesture from the



Young Athenians celebrate after Athens was awarded the 2004 Olympic games by the International Olympic Committee. A crowd of thousands of Athenians reacted with jubilation on Friday to news Athens would host the 2004 summer games (Reuters photo)



Disappointed crowds watch as the Cape Town's 2004 Olympic bid fails to edge out Athens. Cape Town was one of five candidate cities in the race to host the Games, along with Stockholm, Buenos Aires, Athens and Rome (Reuters photo)

Greek ambassador here, Alexandros Sandis, who said: "I hope with all my heart that Rome hosts the Olympics in 2008."

"I don't want to call it a victory — it wasn't a battle, it was just a presentation of five cities and the IOC chose Athens."

However, there was triumph for the Greens and other members of the anti-Olympic campaign here.

Guido Pollice, head of the Green lobby, said: "Now we hope that we can have a constructive dialogue with the mayor of Rome, and that all the effort that went into trying to get the Olympics will go into developing Rome for 2000."

Speaking from Abidjan, President Nelson Mandela of South Africa was philosophical about Cape Town's failure.

"The cities that are bidding have excellent credentials for doing so and we think Athens deserved

it and we congratulate them," said Mandela, en route between Lausanne and South Africa.

A long sigh of disappointment rose from a crowd of more than 40,000 partygoers in Cape Town as they watched the announcement on a big-screen television.

"It's not fair," said bystander Adri Miller. "Athens failed in the athletics championships this summer. We could have done better."

Other Cape Town supporters said the loss proved that the world was not ready to treat Africans on an equal footing.

A Cape Town city official said: "The last ring — the black ring of the Olympic logo — has not been brought home to Africa, and the Olympic spirit and the Olympic family of nations remains incomplete," he said.

Tens of thousands of

Swedes at Stockholm's old Olympic Stadium and the Kungstradgarden park greeted the news in disappointed silence.

Crowds streamed out of the packed stadium and park under overcast skies with heads bowed immediately after the announcement in Lausanne.

Swedish Prime Minister Goeran Persson, speaking from Lausanne, congratulated the Greek capital.

"Congratulations to Athens and thank you to those who worked for Stockholm," he said, admitting that he was disappointed.

"Yes, I am, because the atmosphere in Lausanne this morning was such that I thought we had a good chance," he said.

Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf, a keen sportsman, said he was "sorry that the athletes would not have the chance to use the fine Swedish arenas."

"Despite the, for Stockholm, disheartening announcement from Lausanne, the efforts have not been wasted. Instead, they have given great results in terms of extensive positive coverage of Stockholm and Sweden," the royal said.

But one Swedish woman who supported the Swedish Association against the Olympics demanded to see a financial review "of what this spectacle has cost us."

Argentine President Carlos Menem announced that Buenos Aires is in the running for the 2008 Games.

In remarks to Argentine reporters in the Swiss city of Lausanne broadcast here, Menem said the International Olympic Committee's vote for Athens was "not a defeat" for Argentina, which had sought to host the games.

Menem said he had "immediately" instructed Tourism Minister Francisco Mayorga and Sports Minister Hugo Porta to begin working on a campaign to bring the 2008 Summer Olympic Games to Argentina.

Premier League's 5th week kicks off today

National team prepares for Libya tourney

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — While the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) had scheduled the Premier League competition earlier than usual this season with the hope of an uninterrupted agenda, the matches were delayed because of the Pan-Arab Games in July and will now be postponed again until the national team ends international competitions.

The ten teams will play the fifth week of the event starting today and the matches will then resume Sept. 28.

The national team will be busy with two tournaments in Libya and Iraq amid the JSF's efforts to maintain continuity for the team and provide match experience following their gold medal win at the Pan-Arab Games.

The tournament in Libya kicks off Sept. 16 with the teams of Turkey, Malaysia, Cyprus, Libya and Jordan taking part.

While the national team upgrade their preparations, the Premier League clubs seek to preserve either their top places or struggle to improve their form in the case of the bottom-placed teams.

The fifth week will see the clash of the current top-two Al Ramtha and Al Wihdat who top the standings with 10 points each and are the only unbeaten teams in the league so far.

During the past week, Al Faisali suffered their first defeat 2-1 at the hands of reigning champs Al Wihdat in a postponed match. Al Hussein also suffered their first loss 3-1 to Al Ramtha.

Other teams scored big wins such as Al Ahli's 8-2 win over Al Karmel and Al Faisali's 8-1 win over Al Baqaa. Al Wihdat beat Shabab Al Hussein 2-0 and Al Jazireh and Al Qadissieh drew 1-1.

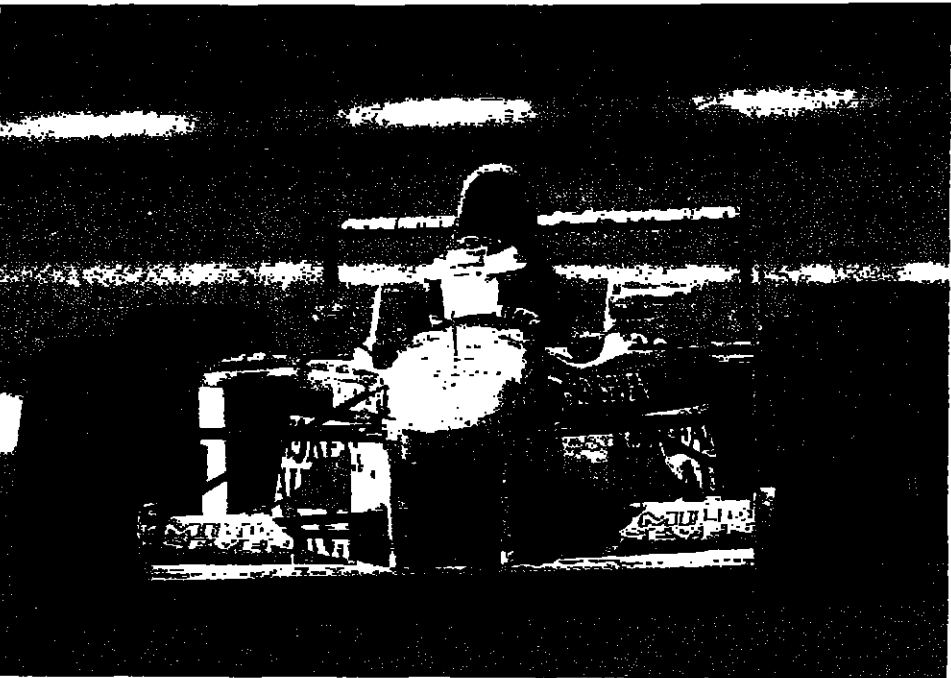
STANDINGS

Team	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pts
Ramtha	4	3	1	0	7	1	10
Wihdat	4	3	1	0	6	2	10
Faisali	4	2	1	1	16	7	7
Ahli	4	2	1	1	12	6	7
Jazireh	4	2	1	1	6	3	7
Hussein	4	2	1	1	5	5	7
Qadissieh	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Baqaa	4	1	0	3	6	12	3
Karmel	4	0	1	3	2	13	1
S.Hussein	4	0	0	4	0	7	0

GP drivers pay tribute to Diana

MONZA (AFP) — The world of Grand Prix motor racing, led by reigning world champion Damon Hill of Britain, paid its homage to Diana, Princess of Wales, with one minute of silence at the Monza circuit Saturday.

British and other drivers and team members gathered around Hill in the pit lane, or stood in silence outside their own pits, at 1200 (1000 GMT), the moment



French Benetton driver Jean Alesi drives during the official practice of the Italian Grand Prix in Monza, September 6. Alesi recorded a time of 1:22.990 and he took the pole position (Reuters photo)

funeral services started in London.

The huge crowd gathered for the afternoon's

qualifying session for Sunday's Italian Grand Prix applauded when an announcer asked them to

observe the minute's silence, and many stood, applauding again when the tribute ended.

Helissio takes on best milers in Arc trial

PARIS (AFP) — Helissio, the 1996 European racehorse of the year, takes on the best of the European milers here at Longchamp racetrack on Sunday in his last race before bidding to become the first horse in 20 years to win successive Arc de Triomphe races.

The four-year-old colt, who will emulate the Irish trained Alleged (1977-78) should he prevail on October 7, is taking an unorthodox route to the mile-and-a-half event by running over the shorter mile distance — a practice rarely employed in Europe though much used in Australia.

His Tunisian-born trainer Elie Lellouche has always wanted to try him over shorter distances and this presents the perfect opportunity with a month to the big day.

The strapping front running horse would lose little in defeat and the race would probably sharpen him up for the Arc plus he will have former regular partner Olivier Peslier back on board.

Peslier, who was taken off him for his ill-fated trip to England for the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes, will ride because his retainer Daniel Wildenstein does not have a runner and his partner from Ascot Cash Asmussen is claimed for Spinning World.

Peslier, a former champi-

on pony rider, said that he would have won on Helissio at Ascot where Asmussen rode a strange race bringing him to the front and then withdrawing him. In the end he was hard pressed to finish third.

Some defended Asmussen by saying the torrential downpour had changed the going and he had no option but to ride a different race so Helissio's doubtful stamina would not be exploited.

Whatever the judgement it is clear that Peslier understands Helissio the best and many will be praying that he can ride him in the Arc.

Helissio, owned by Spanish businessman Enrique Sarasola, will have his work cut out to see off a classy field of milers here which includes five Group One winners.

Spinning World, owned by the Niarcho family and trained by Chantilly-based Englishman Jonathan Pease, won his second successive Prix Jacques Le Marois in Deauville in August and will be aided by the same pacemaker again in Pipert.

Spinning World, who was the recipient of another bad Ascot ride by Asmussen in June, will come from off the pace and will be attacking Helissio who will lie up with the pacemaker.

However, it is by no means a two horse race as

Daylami, who failed like Spinning World at Ascot in June, has ground to make up on the Niarcho horse having gone down to an easily-held two-length defeat in the Le Marois.

World Gymnastics Championships

Khorkina, Ivankov win all-around titles

LAUSANNE (AFP) — Svetlana Khorkina of Russia produced a faultless uneven bars routine in the final rotation to capture the gold medal in the women's all-around event at the World Gymnastics Championships on Friday.

Khorkina, who won the silver medal in the all-around at the world championships in Sabae, Japan, in 1995, scored 38.636 points.

She finished ahead of Romanian Simona Amanar, who had 38.587 points, and fellow Russian Elena Produnova, who was third with 38.549 points.

Khorkina, the pre-event favourite, was not her usual precise self on the first three apparatus.

A poor beam performance left her sixth before she recovered her customary excellence on the floor to move to the head of the field.

However, the 1.64m-tall 18-year-old then failed to nail her two efforts on the vault, falling to fourth place behind leader Amanar, Romania's Gina Gogean and Produnova.

The scene was set for the tensest of finales, with Khorkina on her favourite apparatus, the uneven bars, and Amanar on the vault.

The Romanian was immaculate, leaving Khorkina to score over 9.801 on the uneven bars to overtake her.

The clear crowd favourite, Khorkina completed her routine and held her breath as the judges delivered the verdict. Scores ranging from 9.900 to 9.750 saw her home with something to spare and she wept tears of joy.

It was a deserved triumph for the Russian, who finished only 13th in Atlanta after winning world silver in Japan in 1995.

Amanar too could be content with improving on her fourth place in 1995 and third in Atlanta.

In the men's all-around, Belarussian Ivan Ivankov emerged victorious three years after winning his first world title in Brisbane, Australia.

Ivankov, who has endured two years of Achilles tendon trouble, scored 56.887 points, to finish ahead of Russian Alexei Bondarenko (56.061) and Japan's Naoya Tuskahara (56.023).

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EXAMINATIONS

The British Council would like to announce that entries for the University of London GCE January 1998 session and the University of Cambridge IGCSE/GCE November 1997 session will be accepted from Monday 8 September to Thursday 11 September 1997.

We encourage candidates to register during this period to avoid payment of the late entry fee.

Registration time: 09:30 am to 12:30 pm

Candidates are required to bring with them a recent photo, an official identification and a passport photograph.

Please ask for Miss Diana Muasher

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